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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism in the new Inos-Hofschneider administration?

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The Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group needs a bigger site. **> PAGE 8**

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Bid to dismiss Saipan Air lawsuit vs Swift Air execs denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court ruled yesterday that it has personal jurisdiction over the \$50-million racketeering lawsuit filed by Saipan Air Inc. against three executives

of Swift Air LLC, denying a bid to have the lawsuit dismissed.

» Judge says CNMI's interest in adjudicating dispute is high

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied the motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction filed by Donald A. Stukes, Jeffrey Conry, and

Boris Van Lier.

Manglona said the court has personal jurisdiction over each of the three defendants because they purposefully availed of the privilege of conducting activities in the CNMI and Saipan Air's fraud claim arises out of those activities.



Manglona

Furthermore, the judge said, because the court has jurisdiction over defendants on the fraud claim, it may exercise supplemental jurisdiction over them on Saipan Air's related Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Orga-

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Crisostomo linked to 2006 murder



HOTEL TAX HIKE

A view of Saipan World Resort's popular water park called Wave Jungle from the top floor of the nearby Kanoa Resort Saipan in Susupe on Saturday. The House of Representatives is likely to pass today an administration-sponsored bill increasing the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percent points, a measure that has the support of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Marianas Visitors Authority. If this bill becomes law, the CNMI's hotel occupancy tax will be 15 percent instead of 10 percent.

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Murder victim Bao Ying Chen in a file photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Joseph Acosta Crisostomo, the ex-convict who was charged in the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero in 2012, has been linked to the killing of a woman at Laulau Beach in 2006.

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Admin reshuffle begins

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked for and received the courtesy resignations of senior policy adviser Dr. John Joyner and former governor Benigno R. Fitial's executive secretary Lucy Cabrera, the first batch

of organizational changes that the week-old administration has initiated as it also deals with possible federal funding cuts, fiscal year 2014 budget submission, turning the economy around, and improving its healthcare and pension programs, among other things.

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Local

Healthcare Corp. board seeks to keep status quo

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The composition of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board will be kept the same despite the change in leadership at the Executive Branch, now headed by Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that he will not call for the courtesy resignation of board members who were all appointed by former governor Benigno R. Fitial, who stepped down last week.

Torres believes that, although they were appointed by the former governor, each one was confirmed by the Senate.

"I will leave it up to individ-

ual members of the board. But as chair of the board of trustees, we're in status quo. I am not calling for a courtesy resignation of the members. However, if the new governor decides to get rid of us, then we will do so. I don't think calling for a courtesy resignation from the board is in the best interest of the agency," said Torres.

The corporation board has seven voting members with four confirmed by the Senate: Torres, Pete Dela Cruz, Anthony Aguon, and Roy Rios. The rest—CEO Juan N. Babauta, staff representative Anthony Raho, and director for Medical Affairs Dr. Sharlene Osman—were appointed pursuant to Public Law 16-51, which cre-

ated the healthcare corporation.

According to Torres, Inos has been on top of corporation issues even when he was still Fitial's lieutenant governor. Torres cited several occasions when Inos extended help and his immediate attention to corporation problems. Torres said the board looks forward to working with the Inos administration.

HealthTech report

Meantime, Torres denied yesterday that he instructed the management to ignore the recommendations of HealthTech, a \$150,000 study commissioned by the government to assess the public hospital.

Corporation COO Esther Muña had said at a recent

board meeting that Torres had instructed her not to follow the report's recommendations.

Torres showed *Saipan Tribune* the email exchanges of corporation officials and board members dating back to October last year.

"This chronology of events clearly show that she was not telling the truth when she stated she received instruction from me regarding the HealthTech assessment. I did not at any time

ask her or the CEO not to implement the HealthTech recommendations," Torres said.

In an Oct. 23 email to both COO and CEO, Torres said: "Do we have a team in place to review and take appropriate action on the findings and recommendations of this report? I suggest that we put together this team and have an initial meeting before the end of this week. We need to show that we are serious and that we are taking the neces-

sary action before the governor does it for us."

At the last board meeting, Torres created a special panel chaired by Osman that will review the HealthTech report. The panel's recommendation is due on March 7 for board deliberation.

Meantime, the board's evaluation of Babauta will continue as scheduled. A decision on the CEO's appointment will be issued March 7. According to Torres, the CEO's performance evaluation was conducted pursuant to the mandates of Public Law 16-51.

Company gets OK to manufacture herbal supplements



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Sinho Development, Inc. president Sinho Nam, right, and Simon Sin address the board during the Commonwealth Zoning Board meeting on Thursday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board recently approved a conditional use permit application that would allow a company to begin manufacturing herbal products on island.

The board unanimously approved the conditional use application of Sinho Development, Inc. to produce herbal dietary supplements and other products—including a "natural" Viagra—for marketing and distribution on and off-island.

Manufacturing operations will be done at a property located in San Roque along Chalan Pale Arnold. The area is zoned as village commercial.

The application was approved with the condition that Sinho Development, Inc. apply landscaping where necessary; properly mark property stalls; ensure that company operations

does not generate noise or dust; comply with stormwater management requirements set by the Division of Environmental Quality; does not park cargo containers on premises for more than three days; submit a sign application; ensure cleanliness of surroundings; and comply with requirements of other local and federal agencies that have jurisdiction over their operations.

Except for treasurer Alice S. Igitol, who was absent during Thursday's meeting, all present board members approved the application.

In a business plan submitted to the Zoning Office, Sinho Development, Inc. said that manufacturing natural herb products on Saipan under U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations will increase the products' credibility and brand image.

"Saipan is an ideal geographic location for manufacturing and distributing dietary

products," the plan stated, adding that these products will be exported to Southeast Asian countries and the U.S. mainland through affiliate company Winners Korea Co., Ltd.

The company aims to market its products to "wealthy middle aged consumers" who are "generous" in spending for health products.

"As the population becomes aging and wealthier due to increased income, attention toward health is continuously rising," the plan added.

Sinho Development, Inc. president Sinho Nam, through interpreter Simon Sin, said the company expects to import raw materials from countries such as Korea, Japan, and China but it will also use ingredients found on Saipan and Tinian.

"Definitely, we will study what local plants we can use to produce supplements," said Sin, adding that the research and development department of Winners Korea will be in charge of this.

Sin said their products would be made out of Moringa and Noni, which are both widely recognized for their health benefits.

He also noted that Sinho Development is "investment-oriented, not labor-oriented."

"Only the factory system is important to produce our products," said Sin.

Sinho Development estimates to invest \$160,000 in equipment and machinery, plus \$200,000 in working capital for a total investment of \$360,000.

\$500 bail for firefighter

Firefighter Jaime N. Cuellar was taken to Superior Court yesterday morning for his initial appearance for alleged domestic violence and illegal possession of marijuana.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a bail of \$500 cash and \$4,500 unsecured bond.

Police arrested the 23-year-old Cuellar early Saturday

morning at the Micro Beach parking lot.

Police detective Rudolph C. Sablan stated in his report that a police officer responded to a disturbance at the Micro Beach parking lot on Saturday at 5:22am.

Sablan said when the officer arrived, a woman was seen crying and standing next to her boyfriend, Cuellar.

The girlfriend told the officer that she was there to pick up Cuellar, who was drunk. Police learned that Cuellar allegedly pushed his girlfriend twice, causing her to go off balance.

Cuellar was arrested and transported to the Department of Corrections. A Corrections officer allegedly found on Cuellar's pocket a small baggie containing a leafy substance believed to be marijuana. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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/s/ **JUAN N. BABAUTA**
Chief executive officer, CHCC

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan**
Director, Proc. & Supply

Repatriation sought for overstaying worker in coma

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A nonresident from China found overstaying in the CNMI since July 2005 and ordered to be deported in February 2010 has cost the government hospital some \$1.5 million in medical services as of December 2012

for self-inflicted injuries that put him in a coma, said a lawmaker who is now asking for help with the worker's repatriation.

Rep. Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Health and Welfare Committee, wants the help of U.S. Ambassador to China Gary F. Locke in repatriating

Jing Zhi Quiang to China.

Agulto said the repatriation to Quiang's home country is needed because the Commonwealth Health Center can no longer provide further care because of limited resources.

"All attempts to obtain assistance for Mr. Quiang such as contacting local Chinese

organizations to include the Chinese Association, the Chinese Consulate, his family, and former employers have been unsuccessful. CHC feels that it has done all it can for Mr. Quiang and the time has now come to establish official contact with the People's Republic of China for purposes of arranging for the

transport of Mr. Quiang to China," Agulto said in his House Joint Resolution 18-3, which the House is expected to act on in today's session.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said he was also asked by CHC for assistance in Quiang's case when he was chairman of the Senate Committee on Health.

Torres said yesterday that he as an individual member of the Senate supports Agulto's joint resolution asking the U.S. ambassador's help in having Quiang repatriated.

Agulto said Quiang, a Chinese national, was found overstaying in the CNMI since July 2005. The freshman lawmaker said Quiang was ordered to be

deported in February 2010.

Quiang, according to the lawmaker, has been hospitalized at CHC since February 2010 "because of injuries that he inflicted upon himself which were so severe that he fell into a coma."

The Health and Welfare Committee chairman said CHC has spent some \$1.5 million as of December 2012 for Quiang's medical care, medicine, and medical supplies.

"CHC is no longer able to afford to provide free medical services, medicine, and supplies to Mr. Quiang due to extremely limited resources," Agulto added.

CHC is one of critical agencies lacking funding. It has been under a state of emergency.

CUC employees' payroll delayed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. were disappointed after yet again experiencing a payless payday last Friday, not because of cash flow problems but due to a banking glitch.

Acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher and chief financial officer Charles Warren confirmed yesterday the delayed payroll since Friday, saying the problem was not caused by cash-flow issues at the agency but due to issues beyond their control.

"We received notification from Bank of Guam just after 4:30pm on Friday that they encountered a problem processing our ACH [automated clearing house] transfer for payroll," said Fletcher, adding that CUC retransmitted the data late Friday night, which should have resolved the issue on Saturday.

Unfortunately, he said, this meant that employees with accounts at Bank of Guam would see their wages in their accounts Monday afternoon instead of Friday night. Those employees

banking elsewhere, however, will most likely not see their pay posted until late Monday night or Tuesday.

"This is a huge inconvenience for our employees and we sincerely apologize. We are not sure what occurred as the payroll was transmitted using the same protocols we have successfully used for years. While we do not believe the error was in CUC's system, we have and will be double checking our systems and procedures and make any needed corrections," explained Fletcher.

CUC has a total of 345 employees with net pay of about \$260,000 every two weeks.

Early last year, CUC employees also experienced a payless payday due mainly to cash flow problems. "That was not the case in this event as payroll was transferred on schedule Friday," said Fletcher.

In his email memorandum to CUC department heads, Warren indicated the same concern on payroll.

"We just received notification from Bank of Guam that they encountered a problem

processing our ACH transfer for payroll. This is the file that includes the employee bank account and net pay information. The issue should be resolved tomorrow. What this means is that everyone with a Bank of Guam account should see their pay in

their account Monday afternoon. Everyone else most likely will not see their pay until Tuesday morning. Please be sure to notify your staff. Sorry for the inconvenience," stated Warren in his email to staff Friday.

CUC is still under a state of emergency and is working to address the requirements of two stipulated orders.

KHS' Camacho selected to join youth leadership forum in DC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A Kagman High School senior will fly today to Washington, D.C. after being selected to participate in this year's weeklong National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security.

Peter Paul Camacho, 17, shared with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he was shocked to learn about his selection.

This will be the second time for Camacho to fly to the nation's capital, having also attended the Junior Statesmen of America.

Camacho is the son of Isabel and Joaquin Camacho. He currently holds a seat in the NMI Youth Congress.

"I was happy that I had a chance to go back to our nation's capital and learn something totally different. I expect the forum to develop my critical thinking on emergency situations if ever one would occur to me. That way, I know I can become prepared for any-

thing," he said.

Camacho also hopes to meet again with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to discuss the future of the CNMI's youth. He wants to pursue a political science degree after high school.

"I feel that I was born a leader, and I feel that I am going to be someone who can lead. I hope this forum will polish my skills so that I can become an effective leader. Being a leader is a life-long learner, and I started early," he added.

The mission of the forum on national security is to recognize the nation's most outstanding high school leaders and prepare them for a possible future career in public service. Camacho will hear from and personally meet with top policy makers and experts in the fields of national security, intelligence, and diplomacy. Participants will also be welcomed at the most technologically advanced policy centers and military facilities in the country.



Camacho

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Sen. Ayuyu seeks reopening of detention hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota) has asked the federal court to reopen his detention hearing and release him on a \$20,000 cash bail and property.

Ayuyu's petition will be heard today, Tuesday, at 9am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said she expects the parties to focus on whether the information regarding cash, property, and third-party custodians was known or should have been known to Ayuyu at the time of his detention hearing on Dec. 19, 2012.

The other issue is whether this information is material to whether Ayuyu will obey stay-away orders and refrain from interfering with potential witnesses, she said.

Ayuyu, through counsel Joaquin DLG. Torres, filed the petition on Friday.

Torres asked the court to modify Ayuyu's bail to a \$20,000 cash bail that will be secured by a 6.7-hectare property on Rota. Torres asked the court to release the senator to the custody of his wife and daughter.

The charges against Ayuyu at this point are mere allegations and he is still presumed innocent of all charges, Torres said.

Torres said the cash being presented

now as bail and the information regarding the property on Rota were not available at the time of the initial detention hearing.

Also, the lawyer said, the proposed third-party custodians were not on island and were not available during the initial detention hearing.

"Defendant here is a senator from the first senatorial district who still has two years to serve on his seat. He has been a resident of the CNMI all his life. His

wife lives on the island of Rota. There is no reason to conclude that defendant is a flight risk," Torres said.

Ayuyu, 48, is facing criminal charges in two indictments over an alleged conspiracy to smuggle eight dead Mariana fruit bats from Rota to Saipan.

The indictment alleged that on Oct. 17, 2010, Ayuyu and Ryan Manglona conspired to conceal eight dead Mariana fruit bats beneath 40 lbs of lemon inside a cardboard box.



NEWS BRIEFING

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Attorney General Joey San Nicolas announces during a press briefing on Friday morning that Joseph Acosta Crisostomo has been arrested and charged for the murder of bartender Emerita Romero. Also in the photo are assistant attorney general Shelli Neal, FBI special agent Haejun Park, and Romero's brother, Eduardo Relata.

LAWSUIT

From Page 1

nization Act claims.

"The CNMI has an interest in affording its citizens a forum for redress of grievances. The Commonwealth's economy is almost wholly dependent on tourism and foreign investment, which Saipan Air's venture held out promise of promoting," Manglona said.

Saipan Air is suing Stukes, Conry, Van Lier, Hank Robert, and 10 unnamed co-defendants for allegedly conspiring to fraudulently obtain money and other property from Saipan Air Inc. Saipan Air is suing the defendants for fraud, violations of the RICO Act, and unjust enrichment.

Saipan Air counsel Steven Pixley alleged that Saipan Air has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$1.27 million.

Swift Air was not named in the lawsuit because of the bankruptcy petition it filed, preventing it from being sued.

Saipan Air is a corporation organized under CNMI laws. Swift Air LLC is a limited liability company organized in Arizona. Conry and Van Lier are residents of North Carolina, while Stukes is a resident of New York.

In denying the defendants' motion to dismiss, Manglona determined that each of the defendants in this case committed intentional acts.

Manglona said that Conry and Van Lier, at various times over the course of seven months, contacted Saipan Air's Adam Ferguson by telephone and e-mail. Van Lier even traveled to Saipan and made a presentation to Saipan Air here, she said.

Stukes also contacted Ferguson repeatedly, over the course of about three weeks, in connection with a bridge loan for Swift Air, she said.

"It makes no difference whether the defendants intended to defraud or otherwise harm Saipan Air. It is sufficient that each defendant intended to perform the physical acts themselves," Manglona said.

Clearly, Manglona said, each of the defendants knew that the outcome of their various negotiations with Saipan Air would be felt in the CNMI.

"Therefore, their acts were expressly aimed," she added.

Manglona said the CNMI's interest in adjudicating this dispute is high. Saipan Air, she said, is a CNMI citizen, incorporated and headquartered in the Commonwealth.

Saipan Air entered into an agreement with Swift Air for the charter of two Boeing 757-200 aircraft and one Boeing 737-400 aircraft. The aircraft were to be delivered to Saipan Air by July 1, 2012, for transporting tourists from China and Japan to and from the CNMI.

On June 24, 2012, Saipan Air received a letter from Van Lier dated June 21, 2012, stating that "Swift hereby provides notice to Saipan Air that the agreement is hereby terminated and canceled without further notice or effect."

On June 27, 2012, Swift Air filed for bankruptcy.

partment of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. stated yesterday that Chen's case has been reopened and that detectives are pursuing all available leads.

"As of this time, I have no information to confirm whether he is a person of interest or a suspect in the case or as to his involvement in any way," Blas said.

Two fishermen found the lifeless body of a naked woman along the shoreline of Laulau Beach in the afternoon of Nov. 23, 2006.

An autopsy determined that the victim died of asphyxiation by drowning.

On Dec. 13, 2006, DPS disclosed that the woman was 41-year-old Chen, who was identified through her fingerprint records. Chen was married to a real estate broker.

A police officer disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that a few days after the dis-

covery of Chen's body, Crisostomo's name arose during the investigation as he was apparently seen at Laulau Beach at that time, driving a rented car.

The officer said he was not aware why the investigation into Chen's death did not progress.

A source disclosed yesterday that Crisostomo was seen with some companions at a place in Laulau overlooking the beach at 8:30am on Nov. 23, 2006.

The source said at the time Chen's body had not been found yet, but one of Crisostomo's companions was surprised upon learning later that a woman was found dead on the shoreline.

The source said that Crisostomo was seen that morning carrying a backpack that contained two cell phones, including one believed to be owned by a Chinese national.

EMO warns of rough seas until Wed.

The Emergency Management Office issued yesterday a small craft advisory, warning that rough seas will make it hazardous for operators of small vessels.

The advisory will remain in effect until 6pm Wednesday.

Fresh to strong trade winds are expected across the Marianas waters for the next couple of days. Seas of 10 feet or greater and sustained winds of 22 knots or more are expected to produce conditions hazardous to op-

erators of small craft.

Winds of 10 to 15 knots are expected through Wednesday. Combined seas of 8 to 10 feet will gradually build to 10 to 12 feet by early Wednesday, then slowly subside.

EMO is advising the general public, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. (**EMO**)

ADMIN

From Page 1

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider said the resignation letters were accepted.

He said the new administration has not asked for "mass courtesy resignations."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said there is no telling yet as to Joyner and Cabrera's replacements, as well as the other Cabinet members who will be asked for their courtesy resignations.

The Inos-Hofschneider administration is doing a performance review of the Cabinet, in the wake of Fitial's resignation. As with any administration and in any jurisdiction, the chief executive gets to select his own Cabinet.

Demapan said the Inos administration for the most part will continue initiatives already in place, especially the tourism task force to further improve the destination and beef up arrivals to the CNMI.

"The governor in his previous role was very much involved in a lot of the initiatives that we were doing already so pretty much he has not unveiled yet any new initiatives that we would be looking at. Right now we're just continuing the work that the administration has been doing. At the forefront of that is the tourism task force and working with the Legislature and other elected leaders to address the economic challenges that we're facing," Demapan said in an interview on Capital Hill.

Senate vacancy, CUC declaration

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) also formally asked the governor yesterday to fill the vacancy in the Senate, days after Hofschneider, a former Senate president from Tinian, was sworn into his new post.

"Your immediate attention to this matter is appreciated," Torres told Inos in a one-page letter, following the Senate's declaration that a vacancy exists.

Inos said he will be appointing a person within 30 days from Feb. 20. He said the Office of the Attorney General is reviewing the matter.

Former Tinian senatorial candidate Joaquin Borja was the second highest vote getter in the last two elections.

The governor also extended for another 30 days the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Feb. 20, but the administration released a copy of the executive order only yesterday because of the turn of events last week.

The press secretary said the administration has not yet extended the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as of yesterday.

Buckingham extradition

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) pre-filed for today's action a joint resolution asking Inos and Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas to extradite former AG and now fugitive from justice Edward Buckingham to answer the criminal charges filed against him.

"Freedom and democracy depend upon a government of laws [that] are agreed upon by the people and enforced with the highest degree of integrity providing no allowances for prejudice or favoritism," Dela Cruz's joint resolution partly reads.

Fitial, before resigning, did not decide on the recommendation of Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback for Buckingham's extradition.

Inos and Hofschneider held separate meetings with a host of officials yesterday. Hasselback and Public Auditor Michael Pai were among the visitors to Inos' office.

Tinian concerns

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and his chief of staff and CNMI historian Don Farrell also got to meet with Hofschneider in his new office yesterday afternoon.

Dela Cruz reactivated his concern about the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors "to see if we can have direct flight from Asia, specifically from China, to Tinian."

"CPA has been inactive for a while; they have never been responsive to my request," the Tinian mayor said.

He also asked the Inos-Hofschneider administration for the designation of certain public lands on Tinian to the municipality so that the municipality "can work in enhancing those facilities."

"A lot of them are crumbling already, they're falling down. They're safety hazards. We need that to enhance the Tachogna area and Taga Beach area," he said in an interview on Capital Hill yesterday.

He also asked whether Tinian could fill long-time vacancies since during the Fitial administration. He, however, said he respects Inos' Feb. 22 memo halting agencies and departments from hiring and raising salaries "until further notice."

"I agree with freezing [hiring]. That's the governor's prerogative right? But on Tinian, it's separate issues. Very different. These are positions that have been vacated [because of] resignation and termination and we have to fill those things. With the budget cuts affecting the operations of the Executive Branch on Tinian, the mayor's office was left with no other alternative but to transfer employees from mayor's staff to various departments to carry out the daily operations..." he added.

\$466K federal aid sought for PSS food service program

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System is asking for additional

Inos talks SSBCI with US Treasury official

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider met with David Rixter from the U.S. Treasury and Paul Brown of Michigan Development Authority yesterday. Their visit was an attestation of U.S. Treasury's support for the CNMI State Small Business Credit Initiative. Commerce deputy secretary Ivan Blanco, CDA executive director Manuel Sablan, and Oscar Camacho also joined the visiting officials. Rixter and Brown were also able to meet with bank officials to promote the two lending programs under the SSBCI:

■ **Loan Purchase Participation Program:** The LPPP is designed to assist lenders and borrowers in financing diversification projects. The program

SHRM presents 'Luncheon With the AG'

One of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter's goals is to proactively provide thought leadership, education, and research to human resource professionals, media, governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and academic institutions. In that regard, the CNMI SHRM Chapter is pleased to announce its February general membership meeting, which will include a presentation by Attorney General JP San Nicolas. This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Island Club's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, from 11:30am to 1pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn more about the Commonwealth's attorney general and the Office of the Attorney General: the Commonwealth's law enforcement agency most likely to have contact with the CNMI's businesses.

San Nicolas will present on important topics such as:

- An overview of the Office of the Attorney General
- The Consumer Protection Act's applicability to Commonwealth businesses
- An introduction to the new consumer counsel, assistant attorney general Ghassan Harb
- Other CNMI issues

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Malou Jardinero at 234-7171 local 1518 or e-mail her at malou_jardinero@tanholdings.com. (**SHRM**)

funding from the federal government for the implementation of its summer food service program, which serves meals to schoolchildren during summer.

enables companies to acquire necessary financing that might otherwise be unavailable due to a cash flow shortage according to the lender's analysis. The LPPP will participate on loans with lenders to pursue this goal for approved projects.

■ **Collateral Support Program:** The CSP enables small businesses to acquire necessary financing that might otherwise be unavailable due to collateral shortfall according to the lender's analysis. The CSP supplies pledged cash collateral accounts to lenders to achieve this goal for approved projects.

Rixter further encouraged bank officials that the two programs are provided to all states and territories to spur job growth, business manufacturing, expansion, start-ups, and so forth.

"This is a program that has been in the works over a year now, and we appreciate U.S. Treasury's visit to promote it," said Inos. "I ask that the lending institutions take advantage of this program in order to help our local entrepreneurs who may not have the cash flow, but are otherwise qualified borrowers." (*Office of the Governor*)

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh endorsed to the Board of Education a revised grant application for the PSS Nutrition Assistance Grant, which proposes to add \$466,110 for the 2013 summer service food program.

Thornburgh said the summer food program will operate at 23 school sites and will serve an estimated 63,228 breakfasts and 106,348 lunches to 1,437 students attending

this two-month program.

PSS was earlier approved \$10.23 million in funding under the NAG. PSS wants to increase this to \$10.7 million this school year.

According to Thornburgh, the bulk of the grant, amounting to \$9.7 million, or 93 percent, will be used for the Child Nutrition Programs. PSS plans to serve breakfast and lunch to an estimated 13,800 children in 52 schools and 10 Head Start Cen-

ters. Thornburgh estimated that more than 1.1 million breakfasts, 1.8 million lunches, and 818,010 snacks will be served to 13,800 students attending public and private schools.

A portion of the NAG will be used for Nutrition Education, which is budgeted for \$150,000. This program provides education and training to food service staff, teachers, and students. The training and informational services will focus on

sound nutritional practices, the importance of a balanced diet, and meeting the school wellness goal of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorously daily exercise for students and school staff.

Another \$150,000 is being eyed for equipment and facility improvements to support the nutrition assistance program.

Some \$200,000 will be used for program administration. These costs, in addition to staff salaries, include telephone, transportation, travel, supplies, and other program-related expenses.

Bridge Capital calls for entries for annual art competition

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital, LLC announced yesterday the creation of a separate category for photograph entries as it called for submissions for the 4th Annual CNMI Art Competition.

Administrative services manager Rowena C. Relado said the overwhelming number of entries they receive each year are from aspiring and professional photographers.

Relado said a lot of artists are now into photography and use technology to enhance their shots to make them more visually appealing.

"We expect to receive additional entries with the newest category to be introduced in this year's competition," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Aimed at promoting arts and supporting local artists, the annual competition is open to CNMI residents who have been living in the Commonwealth for at least one year.

The competition is open to two different age groups: students from kindergarten to 12th grade, and the open competition for artists 18 years or older.

Besides photography, other art categories are the two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art. Relado noted that all entries must be the artists' original work. "We won't accept computer-generated or digitally enhanced submissions for the two-dimensional and three-dimensional categories."

For the second straight year, Relado said all entries will be put on display during the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festi-

val to be held at the Civic Center Park from April 19 to 21.

A panel of judges composed of government and business leaders will evaluate the entries, which must be submitted no later than the April 13 deadline.

Winning entries will vie for \$2,500 for the Best of Show award, \$1,500 for first prize, \$1,000 for second prize, and \$500 for third prize. Meanwhile, the top entries for each grade level will receive \$100 while their respective teachers will receive \$100 worth of school supplies from National Office Supply.

Official rules and entry forms may be viewed and downloaded from www.bccnmi.com/artcon

test. Bridge Capital LLC said it will purchase some of the artwork at prices to be negotiated with the artist.

"We encourage all seasoned and aspiring artists to join the competition as every year, this event continues to grow and provide our artists a perfect venue to showcase their talents," said Relado.

For more information, contact Relado at 322-2222 or email rowena@bccnmi.com.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Forten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWMD13-RFP-001

PEST CONTROL SERVICES
FOR THE TRANSFER STATION AND MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY (MSWF), SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Pest Control Services for the Transfer Station and Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF)** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **February 12, 2013** at the DPW, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division Office. **A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., local time** on **March 01, 2013** at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station Conference Room. **Questions regarding this RFP** must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Alex S. Chong**, Director, Solid Waste Management Division, Pagu Avenue, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than **4:30 p.m., local time, March 06, 2013**.

EVALUATION PROCESS & CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Rules and Regulations as revised. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Technical Requirements:

1. Qualifications of the Pest Control Firm:	45%
2. Past experience or equivalent on similar projects:	45%
3. Current Workload of the Pest Control firm and ability to commit to the Scope of Work:	10%

Cost:

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with the overall merit of the proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination to conformance with the Procurement & Supply Regulations NMIAC 70-30.3-245 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License.

Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Proposers must submit an original and four (4) copies of signed; sealed proposals marked **DPW/SWMD-12-RFP-001 "Pest Control Services - Transfer Station and Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF)"** to the office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, March 15, 2013**. Proposal submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 15, 2013** and must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive by **March 27, 2013**. Proposers outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director of Procurement and Supply, in writing, of their intent to submit this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual proposal documents. This notice of intent to submit may be any mode of written communication including facsimile to 670-664-1515 or email to procurement@pticom.com but must be received no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, March 15, 2013**.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP13-DCCA/CCDF-077

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 08, 2013 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR THE DCCA CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND PROGRAM'S CHILD CARE PROVIDERS"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **FEBRUARY 19, 2013** AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING** IS SCHEDULED FOR **MARCH 21, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE MULTIPURPOSE CENTER, SUSUPE.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Thirteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

- Preliminary**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - February 14, 2013 Special Board Meeting
- Public Comments¹**
- New Business**
 - PSS Budget for FY2014
 - JROTC Annual Report
 - JROTC Fund Expenditure Plan for FY2012
 - Endorsement of BOE-PSS letter re MOE for FY2010
 - Memorandum of Agreement for San Vicente Elementary School and Dandan Elementary School – ANA Grant
 - House Bill 18-12: "To amend Public Law 17-82 to clarify those provision necessary to expedite the refunds and prevent any further frustration of the process."
- Executive Session²**
 - Legal Updates
 - Personnel
 - Other matters
- Administrative Matters**
- Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
- Adjournment**

1 Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
2 Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Renewed push to transfer govt insurance program to Finance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Newly sworn in Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) has resurrected a bill that will transfer the administrative functions of the Government Health and Life Insurance Program from the NMI Retirement Fund to the Department of Finance, as part of joint Senate and House efforts to help prolong the Fund's lifespan beyond March 2014.

Yumul's Senate Bill 18-11

seeks to amend the NMI Retirement Fund Act to transfer administration of GHLIP to Finance.

He said the Fund "is not the appropriate government entity" to administer GHLIP's functions "due to its status as wholly privatized, and that the Department of Finance is a much more appropriate government entity to administer these functions."

The bill says the civil service status of existing employees transferred to Finance, should the bill becomes law,

will not be affected.

Yumul, chairman of a special Senate committee dealing with Retirement Fund issues, said lawmakers are also finding ways to cover the cost to the government of this transfer, including a 20 percent reduction in tax rebate that could help infuse some \$18 million to the Fund. This 20 percent tax rebate cut is also among the joint House-

Senate proposals to Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano on Feb. 13.



Yumul

As of Friday, lawmakers have yet to receive feedback from Razzano on their proposals to help the Fund, including appropriating funds to GHLIP to reduce the fund's outlay by at least \$1.2 million, provide a minimum of \$10 million in the fiscal year 2014 budget to the Fund.

"If this bill becomes law,

then the obligation that would normally be borne by the Retirement Fund would now become an obligation of the central government. Yes it will impact the general fund so we need to look at ways to mitigate that. One of them is cost cutting. Everything is on the table, including revenue generating or in this case the reduction in rebate," he said in an interview on Friday.

Moreover, the proposed transfer of GHLIP's administrative functions to Finance is among lawmakers' "long-term" proposals to help the Fund, along with a pension obligation bond, amending Article 11 of the NMI Constitution for fee

simple sale of leased properties by hotels, and earmarking all future pozzolan mining revenues to the Fund.

The government owes the Fund some \$300 million in unremitted employer contributions plus interest.

In January, Fund actuary Dylan Porter of Buck Consultants presented their 2010 actuarial study to lawmakers. The study says the Fund's resources could be depleted by March 1, 2014, if refunds are paid and employer and employee contributions are not paid, or it could be depleted by Nov. 1, 2016, if the refunds are not paid and employer and employee contributions are paid.

Korean middle school inks sister ties with Chacha Jr. High

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores pledged his support and assistance to facilitate future learning activities between Gye Nam Jr. High School in South Korea and Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School in Kagman as a result of a newly established sister-school relationship.

Gye Nam Jr. High School principal Oh Kyung Lim and Math teacher Ysuk Jeong arrived on island over the weekend and met Monday with Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School principal Vincent Dela Cruz to sign the sister-school proclamation.

"These schools are to establish and proclaim a sisterhood relationship to exist through the interactive development and student exchanges to inform about their academic program and cooperation within their students, teachers, and parents from time to time," the proclamation reads.

Flores welcomed the collaboration between the two institutions, saying this type of program would enhance learning opportunities for both local and Korean students.

Teacher Jeong said they are looking at starting off the sister-school relationship with an online education sys-



Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, center, is flanked by Gye Nam Jr. High School principal Oh Kyung Lim, left, and Math teacher Ysuk Jeong at the Mayor's Office on Monday. The visiting Korean school officials arrived on island to sign a sister-school relationship with Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School in Kagman.

tem that would later be expanded to the actual student exchange at the end of the year or in early 2014.

The student exchange program, Jeong said, will involve members of the school band and orchestra as well as their English club, which is very active in their school and are very "curious" to learn about another country's

language and culture.

Jeong said the program will also include a home-stay arrangement, and Flores said the Mayor's Office will do its best to make the island experience memorable for participating Korean students.

She noted that while the Gye Na Jr. High School established the sister-school relationship

with Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School, the same collaboration will be offered to other schools on Saipan.

The two visiting school officials are scheduled to fly back to Korea today.

Located in Gyeonggi Province in Korea, Gye Nam Jr. High School has a student population of about 1,500.

March 15 deadline for Bank of Guam scholarships nears

Just over two weeks remain for applications to be submitted for the Bank of Guam IFIT Scholarship. Applications are available for the Bank of Guam IFIT Scholarship, which makes \$2,000 available for five graduating seniors to attend a U.S. accredited four-year college or university.

» 5 awardees to receive \$2,000 each plus paid summer internship

The scholarship also includes a paid summer internship at the bank's branches.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

1. Be U.S. citizens who reside in Guam, the CNMI, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or San Francisco, California;
2. Be high school seniors, Class of 2013, (copies of transcripts and SAT/ACT scores required) from an accredited high school with a 3.5 grade point average.
3. Submit the original, numbered application by March 15, 2013 to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Marketing Department;
4. Submit three (3) letters of recommendation, one from a reference of choice;
5. Submit answers to four essay questions.

The scholarship will be available for use at any four-year U.S. accredited college or university, and would be earmarked to

those students pursuing degrees in business, finance, accounting, economics or related majors (can be multidisciplinary). Ten semifinalists will be selected by April, who will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S. accredited four-year college or university.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam board chair, president and chief executive officer stated, "We are very proud to offer graduating high school seniors an opportunity to continue their education at an accredited college or university. Given Bank of Guam's longstanding service and commitment to higher education for its communities, it is a privilege to continue this commitment."

Last year's awardees were graduates of Guam's Notre Dame High School, Academy of Our Lady of Guam and Southern High. Additionally, graduates from Saipan's Kagman High and Pohnpei's Seventh-Day Academy won the scholarships and paid internships.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches and the Customer Service Department in Hagatna branch lobby. They have also been distributed to Guam's high schools. Only originals will be accepted. (BOG)

UP FOR TODAY'S HOUSE ACTION

5 pct. hotel tax hike, faster Fund refunds

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives will take up in today's session—and likely pass—a bill increasing the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percentage points and a measure expediting the release of NMI Retirement Fund contributions and resets timelines.

The House Committee on Tourism chaired by Rep. Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan) recommends passing minority leader George Camacho's (R-Saipan) bill increasing the CNMI's hotel occupancy tax from 10 percent to 15 percent.

This bill's previous versions

would have been the 17th Legislature's only revenue-generating bill signed into law yet could not be enforced over tourism industry concerns.

This time, the administration-sponsored measure, House Bill 18-1, has the support of major tourism stakeholders, including the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The increase in the hotel occupancy tax, if signed into law, will provide a source of funding for the underfunded MVA for its marketing and promotions of the CNMI as a tourist destination.

The Tourism Committee report said that MVA and HANMI

have indicated to them that tour agents promoting the CNMI have taken a proactive approach on HB 18-2's intent and have begun including the tax increase in their promotional packages after April 1.

Fund withdrawals

The House Special Committee on Retirement Fund chaired by Rep. Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan) also recommended for passage Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz's (IR-Saipan) bill amending Public Law 17-82 to clarify its provisions to expedite the refunds of members' contributions and prevent any further frustration of the process.

PL 17-82 allows Fund members to, among others, withdraw their contributions without being penalized, continue working and transition into the U.S. Social Security system, remain with the Fund in hopes that the beleaguered pension program will shape up, or roll over their defined benefit plan contributions to a defined contribution plan.

"It is important that certain amendments are made to the existing law to allow a smoother transition in getting monies to members..." the committee report states.

Only about 125 of 1,700 applications received got 25 percent of their employee contributions, while majority is in limbo as to when their contributions would be remitted to them, the committee said.

Possible traffic diverts as water system project gets underway

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. issued a statement yesterday that a water system improvement project is now underway in the following areas: across Northern Marianas College on Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Road; along Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road by Herman's Bakery; and near Dandan Elementary School on Dandan Road.

This project will help move water from the San Vicente

Tank to serve customers in the Lower Dandan, Fina Sisu, and As Lito villages.

"We kindly ask the public to plan ahead in their travels as the contractor's (GPPC Inc.) crew may divert traffic. CUC will notify the public about any anticipated water outages in advance," the CUC statement adds.

For further questions or concerns, call CUC's 24-Hour Call Center at 664-4282. (CUC)

Inos: Commonwealth has reached political maturity

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fresh off from his swearing in as the CNMI's eighth chief executive, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Friday that the "Commonwealth has reached political maturity" considering that its people were able to prevent a constitutional crisis or social unrest to see a leadership change.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), for his part, said the CNMI was able to see a "smooth transition" of power arising from a clamor for change in governance.

Inos was sworn in Wednesday afternoon, a few hours after former governor Benigno R. Fitial resigned barely 15 days before his impeachment trial at the Senate on 18 charges of corruption, commission of felony, and neglect of duty.

Fitial is the first governor in the CNMI and any U.S. insular area to be impeached by the

House of Representatives. He is also the first CNMI governor to resign.

"We've been under a commonwealth for more than 30 years and we've been tested. There was a feeling that we came close to a constitutional crisis... It's never happened when we had to do the impeachment issues and so forth but we went thought that. That tells us that we've reached a level of political maturity. I believe we're at a time when we can actually run our government and credit should go to the people for still having the faith in us running our local government," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos and Sablan witnessed the reorganizational session of the Senate on Friday afternoon, two days after former Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider was sworn in as lieutenant governor under the rule of succession.

Inos, the lieutenant governor during most of Fitial's admin-

'Beautify my Marianas' offers cash for trash

Toward the mutual goal of keeping the Northern Marianas clean and pristine, the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to launch "Beautify My Marianas, an island beautification project providing cash for cleanup projects.

"Beautify My Marianas" is patterned after the Chamber's longstanding cash for trash program and is funded through the MVA with a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs. The program offers a minimum of \$100 to non-profit organizations and school-sanctioned groups to pick up trash in designated areas on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"The Chamber believes a clean environment is a prosperous environment. This collaborative effort—along with the effort of other groups and our litter enforcement agencies—assures that our visitors, and residents, will continue to find the Commonwealth the desirable destination it's always been," said SCC executive director Richard A. Pierce.

"Beautify My Marianas" enables non-profit and school groups to raise money for their causes by giving them the opportunity to clean up designated sites on Saipan, as assigned by the SCC and approved by the MVA, in return for a flat \$100 fee. Depending on the level of difficulty, the fee may be increased. Applying groups must fall under a registered non-profit

organizations or be sanctioned as a school-related activity.

"We are very grateful to the Office of Insular Affairs for recognizing the importance of island beautification in strengthening tourism and our economy," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The individuals who participate in this program on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota can also take pride in knowing they are making our islands a better place to both live and visit. We encourage non-profit and school groups to apply immediately for this opportunity to improve the visitor experience, while also raising funds for their causes."

Interested groups may apply to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce or the MVA, and upon approval of their application, they will be assigned an area that requires immediate trash clean up. It will be up to the group submitting their application to decide how many people will clean the area and when the cleanup will be accomplished. Applications are available at www.mymarianas.com and www.saipanchamber.com.

Approved groups must provide before, during and after photos of the site, as evidence of the cleanup prior to disbursement of funds. Interested groups may apply no more than twice per quarter to ensure that the opportunity is afforded to as many organizations on Saipan. (MVA)



Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) share a light moment following Sablan's courtesy visit to the Office of the Governor on Friday, Feb. 22, 2013.

istration, said the leadership change didn't result from rebellion and civil unrest, just like what has happened in other parts of the world.

"We should continue to be vigilant and the interest of the people should always come first," Inos added.

This year would mark the 37th year of the signing of a document that made the Northern Marianas a part of the United States. To honor that historic moment, the CNMI has set aside March 24 as a Covenant Day holiday.

On March 24, 1976, President Gerald Ford signed a joint congressional resolution approving a mutually negotiated "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States."

The Covenant defines the

unique relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States, recognizing U.S. sovereignty but limiting, in some respects, applicability of federal law.

Sablan agreed with Inos' assessment of the CNMI's political maturity.

"We know where we're at. What happened recently is a drama of political importance. It turned out good for the Commonwealth and its people. I wish we didn't have to go through the impeachment process but we did, but it turned out for the better," he said.

Inos and Sablan, along with Hofschneider and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), said it is now time to "move on" and address critical issues such as improving the healthcare and pension systems and boosting the economy.



NO. 1 IN PINOY FOOD

Shirley's Coffee Shop won first place in the *Panlasang Pinoy* cooking competition held during the 2013 *Pusong Pinoy* event last Feb. 17 at the Garapan Fishing Base. The competition was open to amateur and professional cooks who were required to prepare a Filipino dish.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUC approves contracts to improve call center services, smart meter

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has inked an agreement with telecommunications company IT&E to improve the corporation's call center service, according to chief financial officer Charles Warren.

The agreement is for two years with an estimated cost of about \$180,000 per year. The contract, according to Warren, will not impact the customer service staff at the CUC Customer Center.

"With the goal of improving customer service and access to CUC departments, CUC has contracted with IT&E to provide 24/7 call center services. Any CUC department/division

(including trouble calls) can now be reached by calling 664-4282," according to Warren.

He said all calls will be answered by a live operator, and will either be handled directly or connected to the appropriate CUC employee.

According to Warren, among the key advantages of the new contract to CUC is that its customers can reach any department by dialing a single, easy-to-remember number, 664-4CUC. Previously, he said, over two dozen numbers were in use to reach various departments.

Also, a live operator will answer 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except in very unusual circumstances. If all operators are busy, calls automatically go to voice mail and will be replied

to as soon as possible.

Once appropriate security procedures are in place, the IT&E operators will be able to provide certain account information to customers, even if the call is after normal business hours, he added.

"No more busy signals when trying to call CUC—currently one of the most frequent complaints made by customers," added Warren.

CUC also recently signed an agreement with Nighthawk Total Control, a Dallas-based subsidiary of Birmingham's McWane Inc. to provide cell-network connected electric meters on Saipan.

Warren told *Saipan Tribune* that the contract for the remote disconnect prepaid meters was

issued in October 2012, pursuant to an invitation for bid process that began around June 2012. The contract is for approximately \$378,000.

In a recent announcement of Nighthawk Control, it stated that the technology eventually will be in place in 100 percent of CUC's electric grid on the island.

The company provides smart-meter hardware that allows electric meters on homes and businesses to wirelessly transmit usage and other data via cell phone networks. In addition to lessening the need for utility employees on the ground to read meters, it can improve response time to weather-related outages by instantly reporting losses of service to utilities.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy, happy third birthday to our baby boy Davon Anthony S. Laniyo! May your day be filled with lots of love and joy. May God bless you and may you have many more birthdays to come. We love you so much! Always, Mommy and Daddy.

Free computer class needs bigger venue

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group is in need of a bigger venue to accommodate its growing number of students.

Founding chair Mar V. Masilungan said their current venue in San Vicente is now too small because of the overwhelming response they received since taking over the computer programs previously offered by the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan before it closed.

The venue, which can only accommodate 30 students, is the residence of one of the SBFCUG members, Nestor Tumaquip.

"We are asking the community if they have any building that has not been used for awhile that they are willing to offer to our group so that we can accom-

modate more students who want to learn about computers and electronics," Masilungan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Those who are willing to offer a space for the SBFCUG are urged to email Masilungan at tropicmar@gmail.com.

According to Masilungan, the free computer courses have always been among the well-received training programs of the consulate.

When SBFCUG took over the courses, the nonprofit group decided to offer the program not only to the Filipino community but also to those of other ethnic groups, hence the increase in the number of students.

Established in December 2006, SBFCUG's mission is to educate and raise awareness of electronics and information technology by providing free courses in these fields.

While the courses are free, the

students are asked to contribute \$1 per class to cover the cost of utilities when using the venue.

SBFCUG began offering Basic Computer Operations on Feb. 3 from 1 to 4pm. Volunteer instructor Jousel Regilme said this is the first batch that required them to speak in English since they have two local students.

On the same day, the group also commenced its Basic Electronics class from 9am to noon. Volunteer instructor Zaldy Quebral said this is the first time the group decided to offer this class and the students were all amazed after learning to identify the functions of a resistor, capacitor, diode, and transistor.

Both classes will run until March 10.

ETA-I

SBFCUG, one of the group members of the United Filipino

Organization in the CNMI, was recently recognized by the Electronics Technicians Association, International.

Masilungan revealed that their group is now ETA International's Local Chapter #196.

ETA International is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1978 by electronics technicians with a mission to represent and support the technical professional.

The group is composed of members who are professionals in all technical fields, including fiber optics, smart home, renewable energy, customer service, biomedical, computer and computer networking, telecommunications, consumer electronics, video distribution, aviation, industrial electronics, radar, and satellite.

For more information, visit www.eta-i.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The students under Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group's Basic Computer Operations and Basic Electronics classes pose for a group photo on their first day last Feb. 3. SBFCUG is now looking for a bigger venue that can accommodate their growing number of students.



Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 25 from 7pm to 5am, Feb. 26 and 28 from 7pm to 11:45pm, and March 1 from 7pm to 11:45pm.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Feb. 26 and 27 from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial

pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training

requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of air-space that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517

supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13° 10'N/144° 42'E, 12° 50'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/143° 00'E, 11° 45'N/143° 00'E, 12° 50'N/144° 30'E. (*Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 26, 2004

Heinz cautions increase in LB positions

House Minority Leader Heinz S. Hofschneider yesterday offered words of caution to members of the House and Senate leaderships who want to increase the number of full-time employees in the Legislative Bureau from 35 to 45. Senate Joint Resolution 14-4, which the Senate adopted this week, seeks to add more bureau staff, including one more legal counsel for the upper chamber. Senators want to retain one attorney for each of the three senatorial districts. The Senate is at present allowed only two legal counsels. "I caution everyone that we've made some efforts toward improving the quality, not quantity, of personnel and productivity within the bureau," said Hofschneider yesterday.

Reuse potentials of Puerto Rico dump evaluated

Will Puerto Rico dump be eventually converted to a park, a modern sports complex, a passenger or commercial port, or a facility equipped with a floating hotel? Environmental consultants and members of the CNMI Solid Waste Task Force discussed these reuse possibilities for the former dumpsite in a meeting yesterday at the Governor's conference room. Division of Environmental Quality environmental engineer Brian Bearden, a task force member, said Douglas Roff and Jon Bruton of environmental consulting firm Earth Tech met with the task force to discuss reuse options for Puerto Rico. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente joined the discussions as task force chair.

Feb. 26, 2005

2005 CIP money goes to water, sewer projects

The nearly \$13-million Capital Improvement Project funds this fiscal year will be used primarily for water and sewer projects in the Commonwealth. In a notice of grant award, the U.S. Department of the Interior approved the use of some \$7 million for water-related projects on Saipan. The remaining funds would be used for construction of sewer facilities on Rota and Tinian, totaling \$1.6 million each, as well as the closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite, which receives \$2.7 million. Meantime, water projects that have been approved for funding this year include critical water distribution system (\$298,000), improvements at springs (\$345,000), additional pipeline (\$201,500), water conservation and leak detection (\$960,000), surface water catchments (\$2.9 million), optimization of existing wells (\$1.2 million), a and test drilling program (\$575,000).

Changes eyed in local voting process

More amendments are underway for the CNMI's electoral procedure to reflect changes in the voters' behavior and registration format. The Commonwealth Election Commission is currently soliciting public comments on proposals to stop the use of ink stain as proof of voting and to change the ballot design. In previous elections, polling place supervisors crossed off the name of each voter on the list after the voter has received a ballot. In addition, each voter was required to have their right index finger marked with indelible ink to show that he or she has already voted.

Feb. 26, 2006

Fitial OKs call center tax relief

For the second time, a call center proponent on Saipan got the nod of the Executive Branch on its tax break request. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial approved on Feb. 23, 2006, the qualifying certificate application of We Manage Calls Inc., giving the company its requested tax breaks of over 10 years. The same application was first approved by former governor Juan N. Babauta on Nov. 28, 2005, as recommended by the Commonwealth of Development Authority. The initial certificate gave the company \$2 million worth of tax rebates over 10 years. This decision, however, was not acceptable to the applicant, prompting it to file a petition with CDA for a bigger tax break.

PaganWatch pushes passage of mining bill

PaganWatch has urged lawmakers to immediately pass a bill that would create a Pagan mining task force and require all investors to undergo a bid before they could extract pozzolan from the northern island. House 15-56 is pending in the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which is chaired by bill sponsor and PaganWatch member Rep. Cinta Kaipat. According to PaganWatch member Peter J. Perez, the bill would allow the CNMI people the opportunity to participate in deciding how to manage the reported 200 million metric tons of pozzolan available in Pagan.

Tinian residents participate in Climb Higher Summit



Participants of the Northern Marianas College Climb Higher Summit on Tinian pose for a photo with NMC representatives. The college held two sessions of the Summit; the photo features participants from the first session. NMC

Tinian residents recently participated in the Northern Marianas College's Climb Higher Summit, which was aimed at helping "nontraditional students"—who are usually balancing jobs, limited budgets, and parenting—advance their professional careers by earning a college degree or obtain more training.

According to the college, a large number of today's college students across the U.S. no longer fit the traditional model of students who are usually between the ages of 18 to

22 and are typically attending college right after high school.

"Today, there are many more students that are considered 'nontraditional' students who are enrolling in college," according to NMC president Sharon Hart, Ph.D. "These students are usually older, have delayed enrolling in college because they entered the workforce right after high school, have full- or part-time jobs, or are juggling other obligations like caring for children."

The purpose of the Climb

Higher Summit, made possible through the College Access Challenge Grant Program, was to provide these nontraditional students with the information they need to earn their degrees through the availability of flexible class schedules and instruction delivery, more financial aid options, and other resources that are specifically designed for individuals are trying to balance work, family, and personal commitments.

"Earning a degree has never been more important than

now," said Maria H. Aguon, NMC program coordinator - Tinian Instructional Site. "High school graduation is no longer a sufficient path leading to a good paying job. More and more jobs are requiring college degrees now."

"There's no doubt a college degree can lead to higher salaries, more job prospects, better opportunities for promotions, and more marketable job skills," Aguon added.

The Climb Higher Summit featured information about

online educational opportunities. It also featured a discussion about the CNMI's membership in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, which affords CNMI residents discounted tuition rates at many colleges and universities in the western United States.

The Northern Marianas College hosted two sessions of the Climb Higher Summit last week on Tinian. In addition to presentations from college representatives, the Summit also featured discussions

about various community resources like the IT&E Lifeline Program, the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Program, the CNMI Scholarship Program, and the Nutritional Assistance Program.

"We are very grateful for all those who helped make this event possible," said Aguon. "We are especially grateful to Tinian Mayor Dela Cruz for his support and for encouraging his staff to take advantage of the information presented at the Climb Higher Summit." (NMC)

4 Xavier High students join JSA Winter Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Students from Guam, American Samoa, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Marshall Islands will travel to Washington, D.C. this week to participate in the Junior State of America's 22nd Annual Winter Congress Convention. The two-day simulation of the U.S. Congress will allow students to meet as members of a simulated U.S. House of Representatives, as well as a simulated U.S. Senate.

The students will participate in the program as part of a special scholarship offered by the Junior Statesmen Foundation and funded by the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Students were selected after an essay competition that required them to submit a 500 to 750-word essay on the topic "What Are the Major Issues Facing the 113th U.S. Congress." Students selected were also given the opportunity to submit legis-



JSA Winter Program Scholarship winners from the Xavier High School in the Federated States of Micronesia: clockwise from top left, Johnny Thow, Brenden Yamase, K-Andrea Limol, and Isabel Ambuyoc. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

lation to be considered by the simulated House and Senate during the JSA Winter Congress weekend.

In addition to the 18 students from throughout the Pacific, there will also be six students participating from the U.S. Virgin Islands. These students will join more than 900 other students from throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Texas who will also be attending. Prior to the JSA Winter Congress Convention, the students will be visiting many Washington, D.C. landmarks including the White House and the U.S. Capitol, and will have meetings with officials at the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

The students from Xavier High School representing Micronesia are Isabel Ambuyoc, K-Andrea Limol, Johnny Thow and Brenden Yamase.

More information about the Junior State of America and the Junior Statesmen Foundation can be found at www.jsa.org. (JSA)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bowling Nite on Friday

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join Bowling Nite on Friday, March 1, 2013, at Capital Bowling across Garapan Elementary School at 7pm. For more information or inquiry, give a call to Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. (PR)

Aquarius Beach Tower sets cleanup

Aquarius Beach Tower will be having a beach cleanup on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, from 8am to 9:30am. The community is encouraged to stop by the hotel and help us clean up Chalan Kanoa Beach. Bring your recycled bags. For more information, call Aquarius Beach Tower at 235-6025. (PR)

Co-op Jobs Fair today

PSS Cooperative Education Career Fair will take place today, Feb. 26, from 1pm to 3pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Cooperative Education Program is an internship program that allows high school students to gain and develop on-the-job training in exchange for academic credit. By participating in the Co-op Job Fair, employers will be able network with high school students and will contribute toward developing a new generation of skilled workers. Companies and government agencies are encouraged to contact Christopher A. Tenorio at 237-3864 or Tyce Mister at 237-3248. (PR)

'College Night' at Saipan Southern High

Saipan Southern High School will host a "College Night" today, Feb. 26, 2013, at the cafeteria from 6:30pm to about 9pm. There will be a presentation on the entire college process, along with materials handed out, and a Q&A, sponsored by Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands. All interested students in grades 9 to 12 are invited to attend. Parents are also welcome to come. (TWPI)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

'Just Friends' and other lies

By GINA BARRECA
THE HARTFORD COURANT

You put away the Valentine's candy and put on the Valentine's pounds. Now it's time to face The Six Truths About Relationships That Nobody Ever Admits:

1. When you enter your next relationship, you become the person you split up with. Were you the parsimonious one, always pinching pennies and putting quarters in meters? Were you low on tips and tight on taxi fares? In your next relationship, you'll be giving 20s to the maitre d' and springing for indoor parking at the airport.

Were you the tidy one, always doing the dishes? Your next squeeze will keep the kitchen clean enough for neurosurgery and you'll be accused of leaving too many coffee cups unwashed.

Did you have to beg for affection, only to be told your significant other needed space? Just watch: You'll be the one craning your neck for a gulp of fresh air when the hugs are too frequent and fervid in this next situation.

2. One partner secretly believes the other is in control and wields most of the power. "I can't go anywhere without her knowing where I am and what I'm doing," he sighs. "He gets antsy if I spend too much time away from home and gets weirdly passive aggressive," she moans.

Together, as if in Broadway duet, they sing "We always see your friends! Your family is the one who we have to work so hard to please that we never have any fun with them! You make it so hard when we do what I want to do that we always end up doing what you want to do, even when it seems like we're doing what I want!"

3. It is not the "exactly the same" to be friends with people you had regular (or, even more strikingly, irregular) sex with as it is to be friends with people about whom you never have an erotic thought.

For example, erstwhile lovers tend to complicate conversations (or Facebook messages) with tiny smoke signals arising from their burned bridges. The "what-ifs," and "if-onlys," and "who-knows?" can appear like contrails, apparently out of the blue but actually evidence of a longer journey, above the heads and outside the horizon of the ordinary onlooker. Wistful is attractive in books but in life, not so much.

4. If you have conversations about how you are, in fact only "just friends," you are not "just friends." Friends don't have these conversations. I've had friends since junior high; we've talked a couple of times a week for 40 years. Never have any of us felt a need to pronounce ourselves "just friends." It's not a topic for anybody except people who have the hots for each other.

Don't kid yourself. Think about it: When dealing with your dentist, do you feel a need to announce, "You understand that we have good working relationship but that it doesn't go any further?" Probably not. The phrase is shocking enough that you naturally avoid saying it to an individual holding a live drill in your mouth. If that is indeed the case, and I maintain it is, why isn't it shocking enough to avoid saying to anybody with whom you're not eager to become intimately involved—or who isn't about to tell you to rinse and spit?

See FRIENDS on Next Page



Time to reduce nuclear dangers

By RICHARD GARWIN and LISBETH GRONLUND
UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

President Obama devoted only one sentence to U.S. nuclear weapons in his recent State of the Union speech, which was filled with a long list of proposals for his second term. While he has a lot on his plate for the next four years, the time has come for a major overhaul of U.S. nuclear weapons policy.

The Cold War ended more than 20 years ago, but the United States still maintains some 5,000 nuclear weapons in its arsenal, with roughly 2,000 of these deployed on missiles or bombers. These weapons do nothing to prevent terrorist attacks, which are perhaps the greatest threat to U.S. security today. And the U.S. policy of targeting Russian nuclear weapons substantially increases the risk of our own total nuclear destruction.

Under the current New START agreement with Russia, both countries will reduce their deployed long-range arsenal to 1,550 weapons by 2017; the treaty leaves unconstrained the approximately 3,000 reserve weapons and short-range tactical weapons. Just one of these weapons could destroy much of a large city, while a few hundred would be enough to devastate much of the world.

According to news reports, the Pentagon has concluded that the United States can meet its security needs with fewer deployed weapons—perhaps 1,000.

But such a modest reduction would be much too timid, and not nearly enough to reduce nuclear dangers. The United States could easily cut its arsenal to a total of 1,000 nuclear weapons—including deployed and reserve, long-range and short-range—while maintaining an effective deterrent. This should be the basis of the next arms reduction agreement with Russia, and would be a prelude to constraining the nuclear arms of other states. But the United States should not wait for an agreement to make these sensible reductions.

Continuing to maintain more nuclear weapons than necessary for security is not only unwise, it's a waste of taxpayer dollars. The annual U.S. budget for nuclear weapons systems is roughly \$30 billion, and there are plans to spend much more. For example, the Obama administration has proposed replacing 12 nuclear-armed submarines in the coming decades; each will cost \$30 billion over its lifetime. Defense dollars are needed to address real military threats, and in this era of budget cuts, it is especially foolhardy to spend tens of billions of dollars on unnecessary weapons.

Nuclear security is about more than numbers. Keeping U.S. land-based nuclear missiles on high alert so they can be launched in a matter of minutes is dangerous. This alert status could lead to an accidental or unauthorized attack, or one in response to a false warning of an incoming attack. Worse, this practice requires Russia to keep its land-based missiles on high alert to avoid a disarming blow by U.S. missiles.

Since a Russian nuclear attack is the only one that could destroy the United States as a functioning society, we are continuing to risk everything by clinging to this Cold War policy. Even if the probability of such an attack is small, the overall risk—the probability multiplied by the magnitude of the destruction—is still too high.

During the 2008 presidential campaign, candidate Barack Obama called attention to the dangers posed by the U.S. launch-on-warning policy, noting that they are unacceptably high. When he ran for president in 2000, George W. Bush also said the United States should "remove as many weapons as possible from high-alert, hair-trigger status."

Both were right. Indeed, there is no reason to accept these dangers. A reliable and credible U.S. nuclear deterrent does not require the ability to retaliate immediately. It requires only the assurance that U.S. nuclear forces and command and control systems could survive and respond to an attack.

Both the size and alert levels of the U.S. arsenal are currently based on a war-fighting doctrine formulated during the Cold War that assumes the United States needs large numbers of nuclear weapons to destroy Russian nuclear weapons. Changing this dangerous and self-defeating doctrine is long overdue and would allow deeper reductions in U.S. weapons as well as a reduction in alert status.

President Obama now has the opportunity to take the next sensible steps to reduce the dangers of nuclear weapons. He should move aggressively to do so, and make this a priority for his last term.

Richard Garwin, a physicist who helped develop the first U.S. hydrogen bomb, has served as a security adviser to several administrations. Lisbeth Gronlund is a senior scientist and co-director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Readers may write to them at: Union of Concerned Scientists, 1825 K Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20006-1232; website: www.ucsusa.org.

Estau’n Estados Unidos de Amerika

U madiñgan si Presidente Obama pot estau iya Estados Unidos de Amerika gi mapos na Mattes. Guaha siha mauleg puntoña lau megai lokue’ asuntu siha ni ti umafagcha’ yan hinasoghu.

Lastima appottunifatña umaregla enteru nasion gi haf’ sinañgaña lau puru gueku na inefrese. Sahnge fino’ña ni tai planu.

Pot ihemplo: Malagu’ na u guaha mas lai pot atmas pake yan bala. Umakontra este na fino’ña yan haf’ maprebeniye kada sudadano kumu direchu gi papa’ i konstitusion. Kahulu’ otu kuestion: Manu gi konstitusion ilelegña na siña i kongressu ha tulaika i ti tulaikayon na direchon sudadanu? Manu si Obama ‘nai mañoda’ atoridatña? Taigue este gi papa’ i konstitusion.

Yangin i puntu pot proteksion lina’la’ sudadanu, ya haf’ ayu i kinientos mit (500,000) na famaguon ni man-mapupunu’ fuetsau ((abortion) gi tiyan nanan niha? Mampos ti umaya i ha fafama ‘nai gi mismu tiempu guaha aregloña si Obama gi mapunu’ man-inosiente siha na famaguon.

Ha propone subridan sueddu hulu’ esta’i nuebe pesos gi ora. Hinasun socialista ya komunista i para un’ sapet i fumachuchu’e fiñkas niha pot para unna’ fan parehu todus. I dichu likidu na sistema ni sumede Amerika felis ekonomiaña gaige gi pisun inestablesen i tumuge’ i konstitusion ‘nai todus man-masede fumachuchu’e ya uma-apprubecha gumosa finacho’chu’ niha.

Mientras ha mente pot mas megai cho’chu’ gi papa’ planun administrasioña, guaha 23 miyon na tautau mantai che’chu’ esta pa’gu. Gi mismu tiempu, mas basnag i hinemlu’ ekonomian Estados Unidos de Amerika mientras ha hasñgun fuma’ tampen sinenan i bahun na aregloña pot ekonomia. Ti umaya finoña yan haf’ masusesede. Deste ñgai’an na mauleg i baba?

I aregloña pot hinemlu mas hana’ fan chafleg i mumirese ayudu ‘nai sige i mediku siha mahuchum bisnis niha setbisiun hinemlu’ sa’ mampos guaguan i lai yan areglu siha gi papa’ administrasion Obama. Dispues, mas siempre u dañkulu makenarian operasion gobietnu ‘nai kanaha’ tod u patte gi linala’ i linahyan siempre u halom ya u fan dispone. Lache este siha na areglu.

Gi kadada’ na manera, sahnge haf’ ha sasañgan yan i dañu ni pumalo’pu’ pagu i linala’ i linahyan ni finañagon ti antau siha aregloña.

■ ■ ■

Megai gi enteru elmundu man-hineñañg ‘nai ha anunsia si Santo Papa Benedictus XVI na para u tunog ginen siyan San Pedro pagu na Huebes. Ha komprende na i idatña tagfe’na ya ha sesiente na estague’ ti brabu para i ginagagau ni obligasion puestoña.

Gi inamko’ta, i hagas ta pokakate na chalan mas umanaku’ kontodo fache’ gi chalan mas anchu lau hagas ta adadañgua’ gi kada tiempun uchan. Ta hahassu-gue’ gi tinayuyotta. Puede felis lokue’ i ma-ayeg sigiente santo papa.

■ ■ ■

Ta adelanta fafayen natibu

Gi kada matompu’ i ekonomia-ta, ensegidas tafalague man-mananom para mantension familia. Entre hatdin familia yan tasi ta falague pot satbasion. Este na maña sessu ta repite gi halom chinatsaga yan mattiru.

Hafa ha signififika i ha bira siha i natibu tatte gi dos hagas tradision tanu’? Na ti magahet na solu ginen i tanu’ yan tasi i fitme na pisun yan haligen natibu piot gi finatton ha’ilas? Hafa mohon sessu na mensahe gaige gi este na birada gi ha’anita?

Debi hita finenina ta ina kabaless signififikasion gualu yan tasi gi

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

tradision natibu. Mattu i tiempu ‘nai fuetsau debi ta atetuye umadelanta kinalamten fangualu’an yan tasi sa’ man-ginen este hit mage deste antigu na tiempu. Este i dos pisu ‘nai hagas ta umpañ hinanau-ta deste antigu na komunidan natibu.

Mauleg ta usa tod u koyentura yan fuetsan tautau-ta pot para ta hatsa mas homlu’ na kinalamten produktun fangualu’an yan tasi. Debi esta ta tutuhon mumueba deste antigoso na modun gumualu guatu gi mas modetno. Gi hilu’ este na pisu ‘nai ta tutuhon mas manfitme siha na planu gi satbasion este na patte gi ekonomian tano’ta. Gigon tana’ fitme este na patte gi kinalamten-ta, mas libianu yan lagse’ i para ta petsige gi bandan mas anchu na adelantu.

■ ■ ■

Maseha esta ti hu lalañgag i kuha, hu chage umusa kumu hagas ramentan mame gi hagas gualu Tagpochau. Magahet na esta ti parehu fuetsan koduhu, lau i usun este na trastes chetton giya guahu kulan mohon tatten patman kanaihu. Padarau, fusiñus, kama’, yan otu siha hagas traste gualu ni ñgai’an ‘nai bai’ malefa. Esta pa’gu i hatdin oriyen guma hu ususune pot para bai’ estira i gigat gagu’. Mauleg na eksisiu piot ‘nai esta hau ritirau.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Run, dude, run!

First, this governor screws all the good people of the CNMI’s chances for top quality affordable health care for their children, mothers-to-be, and our beloved aging parents. Then he runs to get treatment for his own medical conditions offshore! What a joke. By reigning over an administration that allowed CHC to be financially run into the ground, hire unqualified senior management just because of island politics, and then watch without raising his hand as CHC systematically chased away good “healers” and dedicated medical professionals.

Now, here’s what should make every person in the CNMI stop and really deeply think about the true ethics of this man. Here is his recent quote: “I am 67 years old and not in good health. I need medical attention that has time and again been sacrificed to emergencies here in the Commonwealth. ...I need to go to the mainland for my health.” So, you know in your heart that the hospital that was under your watch is not fit to handle your medical concerns, and you have no confidence that your medical concerns will be addressed

Economic development?

Our indigenous elders in the Northern Mariana Islands would often say, “*Maulekna ha na un faisen kuestiona ki no un na annuk na todo untungu.*” In English, this means, “It is better to ask some question than to know all the answers.” The Feb. 15, 2013, letter to the editor of Mr. John B. Joyner urges many indigenous people to critically examine just what Mr. Joyner is really saying. Obviously, many of us do not have the kind of loaded academic acquisition of knowledge together with the special and respected designation of intelligence after our surnames as Mr. Joyner has, but certainly we have a few among us that every so often would raise a point or two in situations like the “qualifying certificate” controversy in the public discussion. I do share and agree with Mr. Gary Sword’s letter to the editor in response to this issue.

First of all, Mr. Joyner should refrain from borrowing words from the indigenous language he does not know about. *Mamahlau*, *namamahlau*, *taimamahlau*, or *timamahlau* all mean shame and disrespect of some form or another about a person or identity. These words have deep meaning in feeling and thoughts to the indigenous people. I am certain that Mr. Joyner does not absorb these particular situations that he talks about. Hence, if you don’t know what you are saying, just don’t talk about it, the “shame” is on you if you

at CHC so now you must run away to the mainland. How about all the people who can’t run to the mainland for medical attention, huh? How about the aging people suffering with geriatric complications who are not mobile and need care here and now? How about mothers with medical concerns for a baby that will be born premature and needs special care? How about the emergency room and its ability to handle trauma and severe injuries? Can those relatives waiting out in the emergency room hall crying for a loved one who is lacking the right life-support systems and personnel to stay alive go to the mainland for their health concerns? What an arrogant man you are. You now run for the hills to save your own butt but you had no concerns for the most vulnerable and helpless in your own society who also need the best medical care for their survival. You and Juan Babauta have serious ethical issues, and you have put a whole society at risk.

Go ahead, dude, run and go get your enema stateside and have a nice private room with a view to enjoy the warm soapy flushing afterwards, all paid for by your healthcare insurance. And while getting your stateside medical treatments, just know that your own people must suffer the loss of not having what you now have. Just think in quiet moments in your nice private hospital room how many children, parents, and elderly you could have helped by mak-

express yourself as you were.

The other aspect of Mr. Joyner’s point of view is on “economic development,” suggesting also the lack of knowledge by some indigenous people on the subject. And, regretfully, more troubling than not is his idea that the “qualifying certificate” program is the panacea to all economic development in the CNMI. Well, let’s ask Mr. Joyner the question: “What do you know about economic development?” Scores of scholars around the world in contemporary times, including classical thinkers of economics, only produced more contradictions than a one-size-fit-all explanations. Even today we have more questions than we have answers for these matters. The word “development” when used before or after the word “economic” has a totally different meaning in academia and in a layperson’s world. More importantly, the word “development” is an indeterminate word and requires a lot of qualifiers when used in an economic context. But, then again, for the CNMI is it a question of “economic development” or “development economics”?

Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

ing CHC the kind of medical institution that people in the whole Western Pacific would have wanted to come to for care. It could have happened. You could have done things right and made the hospital the best of its kind in the region but you failed. That is your legacy I hope the people of the CNMI remember for a long time and then move quickly to change the situation. First, get Big Mr. Juan out of there and fire that whole bunch of yahoos. Your and your children’s health and life expectancy depend on it.

Chris West

Santa Monica, Calif.

New hotel on Saipan

Saipan has a new hotel of which I was totally unaware. There was no publicity, ribbon-cutting, or fanfare. This new facility is located on Mt. Tapochao Road and has historically been called Coral Island Condominiums, which offered residential condominium apartments. However, in November 2012, it was transformed into the “Saipan Vacation Resort,” which offers rooms by the night or week. It is advertised in various Web pages:

- www.saipanvacationalrental.com, which states in part, “Our luxury vacation resort is centrally located...”
- www.saipanvacationalrental.com/japan.html which is similar, but appeals to the Japan market and is written in their language, and www.vrbo.393359 which states in part, “Saipan Vacation rental is the first and only vacation rental in Saipan.” It then gives rate details (in US dollars) Jan 1- Mar. 30, 85 dollars/night and 580 dollars/week and dates available year round.”

As a resident and taxpayer of Saipan, this brings some interesting issues to mind:

1. Zoning: This particular area of Mt. Tapochao Road. is currently rural. It is my understanding that if a hotel is to be operated in this area, it requires a conditional use permit. Does such permit exist?
2. Hotel tax: Aren’t hotels required to remit hotel taxes to the CNMI government?
- 3) Hotel permit: Does the CNMI government require hotels to acquire a permit to operate?
- 4) HANMI: Has Saipan Vacation Resort been invited to join the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands? Recently, the media has repeatedly quoted our elected officials as stating, “No one is above the law.” So I ask, is this new hotel operating according to CNMI laws?

Victoria Tudela

Capital Hill, Saipan

FRIENDS

From Page 10

5. The French have a saying: “In every relationship, there is one who kisses and one who offers the cheek.” One always loves more; in every pair, one is reaching to offer and one is deciding whether or not to accept.

Of course, the French also have tiny waists and that terrific custardy kind of quiche you simply can’t find in America even at really good bakeries, so I’m not saying everything applies entirely to our culture. But I bet you’ll agree that when gauging the romantic relationships of others, from short-term dalliances to long-term marriages (always hoping these do not exist simultaneously), it’s easy to see who’s the kisser and who’s the kissee. Only in one’s own relationship do things become foggy and are phrases such as

“We’re absolutely balanced” or “We trade off; sometimes it’s me, sometimes it’s him” employed in all earnestness.






6. Love is a lot of trouble. But it’s worth it.

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80

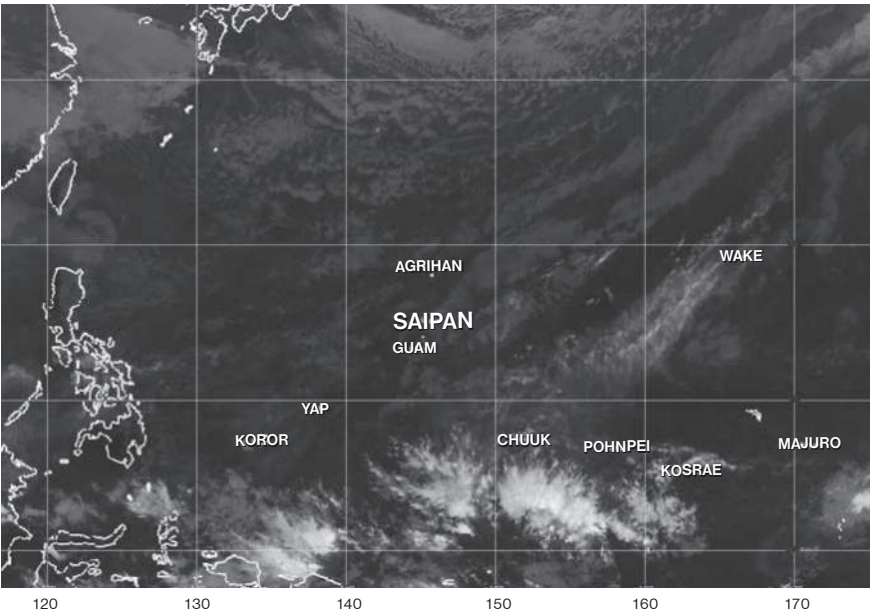
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 65
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 27
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 46
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 81 ▼ 68
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 71
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 39
Osaka	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 42
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 35
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 39
Rome	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 37
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 30
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 38
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 47 ▼ 45

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
8:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N160E to 21N151E then continues as a shear line across the far northern CNMI to beyond 130E at 16N. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of the front and shear line. Another shear line stretches southwestward from 25N165E to near Saipan at 15N147E. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this shear line. Trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror south of a line from 3N132E to 5N138E to 3N141E and south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 6N from 144E to 163E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers southeast of Majuro within 130 miles of a line from 2N172E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:45 PM	6:27 AM
Wednesday	7:38 PM	7:09 AM
Thursday	8:32 PM	7:52 AM
Friday	9:29 PM	8:37 AM
Saturday	10:27 PM	9:24 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

All condemn pending budget cuts, spread blame

WASHINGTON (AP)—The automatic budget cuts set to take hold this week were roundly condemned Sunday as governors, lawmakers and administration officials hoped for a deal to stave off the \$85 billion reduction in government services.

But as leaders rushed past each other to decry the potentially devastating cuts, they also criticized their counterparts for their roles in introducing, implementing and obstructing the budget mechanism that could affect everything from commercial flights to classrooms to meat inspections. The GOP's leading line of criticism hinged on blaming Obama's aides for introducing the budget trigger in the first place, while the administration's allies were determined to illustrate the consequences of the cuts as the product of Republican stubbornness.

Former Republican National Committee chairman Haley Barbour, aware the political outcome may be predicated on who is to blame, half-jokingly said Sunday: "Well, if it was a bad idea, it was the president's idea."

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said there was little hope to dodge the cuts "unless the Republicans are willing to compromise and do a balanced

approach."

No so fast, Republicans interjected.

"I think the American people are tired of the blame game," said Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H.

Yet just a moment before, she was blaming Obama for putting the country on the brink of massive spending cuts that were initially designed to be so unacceptable that Congress would strike a grand bargain to avoid them.

Obama nodded to the squabble during his weekly radio and Internet address.

"Unfortunately, it appears that Republicans in Congress have decided that instead of compromising—instead of asking anything of the wealthiest Americans—they would rather let these cuts fall squarely on the middle class," Obama said on Saturday, in his last weekly address before the deadline but unlikely to be his final word on the subject.

"We just need Republicans in Washington to come around," Obama added. "Because we need their help to finish the job of reducing our deficit in a smart way that doesn't hurt our economy or our people."

With Friday's deadline nearing, few in the nation's capital were optimistic that a realistic alternative could be found and all

Poll: What is sequester?

Which definition most accurately portrays what politicians and news media mean when they refer to "the sequester"?

WRONG Possibility that U.S. will soon exceed debt limit
21

Not sure
25

WRONG Process by which an elected official can be removed from office
9

RIGHT Package of spending cuts that will soon take effect
36%

WRONG Ruling on federal budget that will soon be made by Supreme Court
8

NOTE: Figures don't total 100 percent due to rounding

Source: The Hill Poll by Pulse Opinion Research of 1,000 likely voters, Feb. 7, 2013;

margin of error: +/-3 percentage points

Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2013 MCT

sought to cast the political process itself as the culprit. If Congress does not step in, a top-to-bottom series of cuts will be spread across domestic and defense agencies in a way that would fundamentally change how government serves its people.

And, yes, those cuts will hurt. The cuts would slash from domestic and defense spending alike, leading to furloughs for hundreds of thousands of government workers and contractors.

Defense Secretary Leon Pa-

netta has said the cuts would harm the readiness of U.S. fighting forces. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said travelers could see delayed flights. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said 70,000 fewer children from low-income fami-

lies would have access to Head Start programs. And furloughed meat inspectors could leave plants idled.

In Virginia, for instance, 90,000 Defense Department civilian employees could be furloughed, including nurses at Army hospitals, said Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va. He also said ship-repair contractors could lay off 300 of their 450 employees.

"There is no reason that this has to happen. We just need to find a balanced approach," Kaine said.

Some governors said the impasse was just the latest crisis in Washington that is keeping businesses from hiring and undermining the ability of state leaders to develop their own spending plans.

"It's senseless and it doesn't need to happen," said Gov. Martin O'Malley, D-Md., during the annual meeting of the National Governors Association this weekend.

"And it's a damn shame, because we've actually had the fastest rate of jobs recovery of any state in our region. And this really threatens to hurt a lot of families in our state and kind of flat line our job growth for the next several months," said O'Malley.

Huawei reveals 'fastest smartphone in the world'

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Huawei, a Chinese company that recently became the world's third-largest maker of smartphones, calls its new flagship product "the fastest smartphone in the world" and wants to use it to expand global awareness of its brand.

Parts of the presentation of the phone at a press conference Sunday in Barcelona, Spain, suggest that the company has some way to go in polishing its pitch for a global audience.

Richard Yu, head of Huawei's consumer business group said the new phone can be programmed to display more than 100 different "themes," or looks. This is important because

"ladies like flowers, colorful things," Yu said.

Yu also said Huawei is learning from Apple how to make Google's Android software easier to use, a lawsuit-friendly utterance considering that Apple is on a global campaign to sue makers of Android phones for copying from the iPhone.

The new phone, the Ascend P2, will have a 4.7 inch screen. Yu said it will be available in the April to June time frame for about \$525 without a contract. It's the "fastest" because it supports faster download speeds than other phones. However, today's wireless networks aren't equipped to supply those speeds.

Huawei Technologies Ltd. was the world's third largest seller of smartphones, after Samsung and Apple, in the fourth quarter of last year, according to research firm IDC. That's despite selling very few phones in the U.S., where the big phone companies mostly ignore it. It has a much better position in Europe, where cellphone companies have embraced its network equipment, and France's Orange is committed to selling the phone.

In the U.S., a congressional panel recommended in October that phone carriers avoid doing business with Huawei or its smaller Chinese rival, ZTE Corp., for fear that its

network equipment could contain "back doors" that enable access to communications from outside. The Chinese government rejected the report as false and an effort to block Chinese companies from the U.S. market.

Meanwhile, a report by a private U.S. cybersecurity firm concluded recently that a special unit of China's military is responsible for sustained cyberespionage against U.S. companies and government agencies. China has denied involvement in the attacks in which massive amounts of data and corporate trade secrets, likely worth hundreds of millions of dollars, were stolen.

HP to make \$169 Android tablet, eschewing Windows

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co. is making a tablet computer that uses Google's Android operating system, steering clear of Microsoft's latest tablet-oriented version of Windows, the company said Sunday.

The HP Slate 7 will have a 7-inch screen, making it similar in size to the Amazon Kindle Fire. It will cost \$169 when it goes on sale in April in the U.S.

Most tablet makers, including Samsung and Amazon, have chosen Android as the best and cheapest operating system

for products that can compete against Apple's iPad. HP previously made a tablet based on Palm's WebOS software, but the effort fizzled. The company also makes a more powerful tablet with PC-type components for the corporate market, which runs a PC-style version of Windows 8. It hasn't produced a tablet using Windows RT, Microsoft's product for iPad-type tablets.

"When we looked at creating a real killer product for consumers, a very portable, very entertainment-focused device,

we thought that Android was the better choice," said Alberto Torres, who signed on as head of HP's mobile devices division five months ago. Previously, he worked for cellphone maker Nokia Corp. "Of course, we continue to work closely with Microsoft on other products as well."

Torres didn't rule out using Windows RT in the future, saying the company plans a broad portfolio of tablets tailored toward different types of buyers. But HP's choice of Android for a consumer device and Windows 8 for a corporate tablet

leaves little room for Windows RT, which Microsoft hopes will expand the reach of Windows beyond corporate tablets.

Torres said the Slate 7 will use a relatively "vanilla" version of Android. The company is avoiding the interface modifications Asian manufacturers apply and the deeper changes imposed by Amazon and Barnes & Noble for their tablets. The Slate 7 will ship with the ability to talk to printers, HP's forte. At \$169 the device is aggressively priced, costing half of what Apple charges for an iPad mini.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Horse meat found in Danish pizzas

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Danish authorities say they will report a butcher in central Denmark to police for selling horse meat labeled as beef to local pizzerias. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's chief investigator, Michael Rosenmark, says samples taken from packages of "pizza meat" produced by Harby Slagterhus showed they contained a mix of horse meat, pork and beef. The butcher, in a village near Denmark's second-largest city Arhus, markets itself as a local, high-quality alternative to large consortiums and claims the restaurants knew their product contained horse meat. But Rosenmark says a former employee at the butcher's supports the claim it has been misleading customers.

KFC launches China campaign to rebuild brand

BEIJING (AP)—KFC has unveiled new quality control measures in China in an effort to rebuild its battered brand after a scandal over misuse of antibiotics by its suppliers to fatten poultry. KFC said Monday it will strengthen oversight of its suppliers and expand drug testing. It said more than 1,000 small producers used by the company's 25 poultry suppliers have been eliminated from its network. The company, owned by Yum Brands Inc., says sales in China might fall by as much as 25 percent in the current quarter after state television reported in December that poultry suppliers were using excessive levels of antibiotics to fatten chickens.

Algerian gas plant in terror siege resumes work

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—A gas installation in Algeria that was the site of a terrorist attack last month that left 37 hostages dead partially resumed production Sunday, as the head of the state-owned energy company said he would request armed personnel for energy plants to help prevent future assaults on sites that can be hundreds of miles from the nearest city. Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal started up one of three gas streams at the Ain Amenas site, bringing it up to about 35 percent capacity, according to state radio. On Jan. 16, a band of al-Qaida affiliated militants attacked the Ain Amenas complex and took dozens of foreign workers hostage. After a four-day standoff, the Algerian army moved in and killed 29 attackers and captured three others. At least 37 hostages, including one Algerian worker, died in the battle.

Nation

Can escape clause save voting rights provision?

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration and civil rights groups are defending a key section of the landmark voting rights law at the Supreme Court by pointing reformed state, county and local governments to an escape hatch from the law's strictest provision.

The Voting Rights Act effec-

tively attacked persistent discrimination at the polls by keeping close watch, when it comes to holding elections, on those places with a history of preventing minorities from voting. Any changes, from moving a polling place to redrawing electoral districts, can't take effect without approval from the Justice De-

partment or federal judges in Washington.

But the Voting Rights Act allows governments that have changed their ways to get out from under this humbling need to get permission through a "bailout provision." Nearly 250 counties and local jurisdictions have done so; thousands more

could be eligible based on the absence of recent discriminatory efforts in voting.

The viability of the bailout option could play an outsized role in the Supreme Court's consideration of the voting rights law's prior approval provision, although four years ago, conservative Justice Clarence Thomas

said the prospect of bailing out had been "no more than a mirage." The court will hear arguments Wednesday in the case, which is among the term's most important, in a challenge from Shelby County, Ala.

Opponents of the law say they no longer should be forced to live under oversight from Washington because the country has made enormous racial progress, demonstrated most recently by the re-election of President Barack Obama. They object in particular to the 40-year-old formula by which

some jurisdictions, most in the Deep South, are swept under the law and others remain outside it.

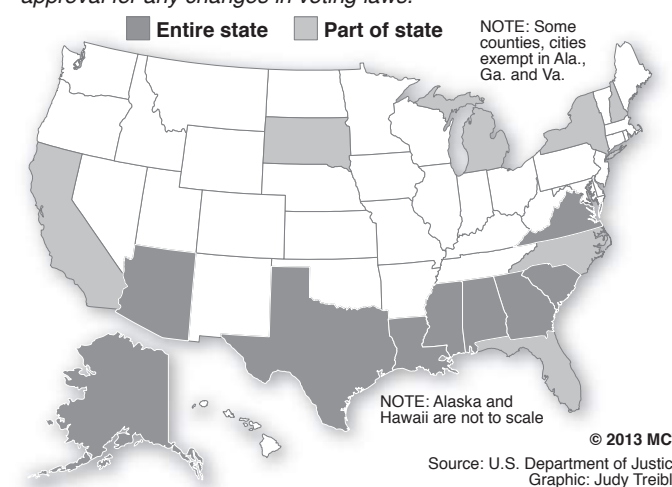
The administration and its allies acknowledge that there has been progress. But they say minority voters still need the protection the law affords from efforts to reduce their influence at the polls. Last year, federal judges in two separate cases blocked Texas from putting in place a voter identification law and congressional redistricting plan because they discriminated against black and Hispanic residents.



This July 27, 2006 file photo shows President George W. Bush signing legislation for a 25 year extension of the Voting Rights Act on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

Voting Rights Act states

States with a history of discriminatory voting practices that are subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act; states require federal approval for any changes in voting laws.



Volunteers in Newtown handwriting thank-you notes

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Some letters come from church groups, others from parents who've lost children of their own. One came from a police officer who responded to the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

They're some of the estimated 175,000 cards and letters of support and condolences that have poured into Newtown from around the world since December's massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary school, and volunteers are working to pre-

serve them and say thank you to as many senders as they can, one handwritten note at a time.

The archiving project is the brainchild of resident Yolie Moreno, who said she was floored to see the trays and trays of letters lining the walls of the town's municipal building after the mass shooting, many containing artwork or the thoughts of schoolchildren.

One that touched her was a child's watercolor painting, with "You don't know how strong you are until being STRONG is

the only option you have," written over it in marker.

"It's incredible, incredible stuff," Moreno said. "And I imagine everyone who sent something would like to know that it was held, read, touched, photographed and shared."

With the permission of town officials, Moreno and a handful of other volunteers have begun photographing as much of it as they can.

"Tray by tray, we'd take the letters out of the envelopes and photograph them, sometimes as

a group, sometimes single letters, and try to motor through as much as we could," Moreno said. "We are trying just to document the outpouring from around the world."

The letters were boxed this week and taken to a storage unit, where Moreno and her team will continue to have access to them. Once they are archived, the plan is to incinerate the items and use the ashes to help create concrete for whatever memorial to the shooting victims is built, she said.

Las Vegas seen as dangerous even as crime drops

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Various known as an adult playground and Disneyland for grown-ups, Las Vegas brands itself as a place where tourists can enjoy a sense of edginess with no real danger.

But a series of high-profile episodes of random violence amid the throngs of tourists is threatening Sin City's reputation as a padded room of a town where people can cut loose with

no fear of consequences.

A car-to-car shooting and fiery crash that killed two bystanders and an aspiring rapper Thursday followed a bizarre elevator stabbing and a movie theater parking lot shooting.

Though crime has been falling on the glitzy stretch of Las Vegas Boulevard that houses most of the city's major casinos, tourism officials worry that vacationers and convention plan-

ners could begin to steer clear of the town because of a perception of mayhem.

"We are concerned because it can create misperceptions about the safety of the city, the safety of the Strip," said Gary Thompson, spokesman for Caesars Entertainment, which owns 10 resorts in the tourist zone, including Caesars Palace and Paris Las Vegas.

Casinos are particularly wor-

ried about convention business, which helps fill rooms and gambling tables between weekends. Corporate planners can swing the market with a few decisions, said Gordon Absher, spokesman for MGM Resorts International.

"And that decision will bring thousands of people," he said. MGM operates several major casino-hotels, including CityCenter, where Thursday's convulsion of violence originated.

Rape of adopted Ohio kids unusual, haunting case

TROY, Ohio (AP)—The one-story, brick ranch-style home blends into the working-class neighborhood along Nutmeg Square in this western Ohio city, offering no signs of the terrible secrets it once concealed.

Its former owner will return to court in Dayton on Tuesday to be sentenced for guilty pleas to child rape and related charges in a haunting case that experts call unusual because the perpetrator was an adoptive father and the victims were three boys in his care. The pleas have all but ensured he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

The 40-year-old man, whom The Associated Press isn't naming to protect the children's identities, said in an interview that he had been a foster parent, youth basketball coach and substitute teacher for years without any problems. He said he didn't adopt the boys with bad intentions.

"I always wanted to protect kids," he said during one of two interviews at the Miami County Jail. "Somewhere along the line, things went wrong."

In an era of stunning cases of sexual abuse of young boys by respected authority figures—priests, Boy Scout leaders, an assistant coach at a famed

college football program—the repeated rapes of boys by an adoptive father who also arranged for two other men to rape one adopted son shocked his unsuspecting neighbors, investigators and children's services officials.

"It was just devastating to hear about. It's really sad for the kids," said April Long, a mother of three who was their next-door neighbor. She and other neighbors say they didn't suspect anything; the children played outside, and the man did neighborly things like pick up their mail or mow their lawn when they were away.

"You think: 'What could I have done? Is there something we missed that we should have seen?'" Long said, gazing at the home from her front porch lined with children's bicycles.

The single man was a foster parent for six other children before he began adopting children in the past three years. He adopted a brother and sister and an unrelated boy, and was in the process of adopting another boy, all ages 9 to 12, when authorities arrested him a year ago Sunday following an undercover sting that began when a detective looked into an online posting about "taboo sex."

Asia

Navy ship goes to Malaysia trying to get Filipinos

Afghanistan: US special forces must leave province

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's president ordered all U.S. special forces to leave a strategically important eastern province within two weeks because of allegations that Afghans working with them are torturing and abusing other Afghans.

The decision Sunday seems to have surprised the coalition and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, a separate command. Americans have frequently angered the Afghan public over issues ranging from Qurans burned at a U.S. base to allegations of civilian killings.

"We take all allegations of misconduct seriously and go to great lengths to determine the facts surrounding them," the U.S. forces said in a statement.

Also Sunday, a series of attacks in eastern Afghanistan showed insurgents remain on the offensive even as U.S. and other international forces prepare to end their combat mission by the end of 2014.

Suicide bombers targeted Afghanistan's intelligence agency and other security forces in four coordinated attacks in the heart of Kabul and outlying areas in a bloody reminder of the insurgency's reach nearly 12 years into the war.

Presidential spokesman Aimal Faizi said the decision to order the American special forces to leave Wardak province was taken during a meeting of the National Security Council because of the alleged actions of Afghans who

are considered linked to the U.S. special forces.

He said all special forces operations were to cease immediately in the restive province next to Kabul, which is viewed as a gateway to the capital and has been the focus of counterinsurgency efforts in recent years.

The Taliban have staged numerous attacks against U.S.-led coalition forces in the province. In August 2011, insurgents shot down a Chinook helicopter, killing 30 American troops, mostly elite Navy SEALs, in Wardak. The crash was the single deadliest loss for U.S. forces in the war.

Afghan forces have taken the lead in many such special operations, especially so-called night raids.

"Those Afghans in these armed groups who are working with the U.S. special forces, the defense minister asked for an explanation of who they are," Faizi said. "Those individuals should be handed over to the Afghan side so that we can further investigate."

A statement the security council issued in English said the armed individuals have allegedly been "harassing, annoying, torturing and even murdering innocent people."

Ceasing all such operations could have a negative impact on the coalition's campaign to go after Taliban leaders and commanders, who are usually the target of such operations.

Faizi said the issue had already been brought up with the coalition.



Filipino Sultan of Sulu Jamalul Kiram III gestures as he talks on a mobile phone during a news conference in Alabang, south of Manila, Philippines on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013. AP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine navy ship was sailing to waters off eastern Malaysia on Monday to try to bring back some members of a Filipino clan who became locked in a territorial standoff after going there and claiming land as their own.

About 180 Filipinos, including about 30 armed security guards, arrived in Sabah state's coastal district of Lahad Datu about two weeks ago, claiming Sabah belongs to their royal clan based in the southern Philippine province of Sulu.

Malaysian authorities regard them as armed intruders and have attempted to persuade them to leave peacefully, extending a

deadline until Tuesday.

Philippine and Malaysian authorities have said the group's demands should be addressed through diplomatic channels.

The Philippines notified Malaysia about the ship arrangements Saturday and said the vessel will stay off Lahad Datu while talks to persuade the Filipinos to return home continue. It departed Sunday night with an entourage including social workers and medical personnel and was due to arrive around midday Monday.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said the navy ship was on a humanitarian mission to try to pick up five

women and some of the other group members. "We urge them to board the ship without delay and return home," he said.

Del Rosario also repeated a plea for the entire group to return home to their families in the southern Philippines while "we are addressing the core issues they have raised."

"Please do so for your own safety," he said.

Malaysian police have not said what kind of weapons the Filipinos possess. Details from the remote area, about 500 kilometers (300 miles) from Sabah's capital city, have been scarce.

Security along Malaysia's

sea border with the Philippines has been problematic for Sabah, where tens of thousands of impoverished Filipinos have tried to migrate over the past few decades.

In 2000, Muslim extremists from the southern Philippines slipped twice into Sabah and abducted people for ransom, including European tourists and Malaysian workers from a diving resort.

One of the most recent kidnappings involved two Malaysians snatched from a plantation in Lahad Datu in November. They were believed to have been taken to the southern Philippines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Explosions wound 10 in southern Thailand

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—Police say suspected insurgents detonated two bombs that wounded 10 people and staged a series of minor attacks in nearly 30 spots in Thailand's violence-plagued south. Police Col. Tongsak Jaranpong says the militants set off an improvised bomb in a garbage can in the city of Pattani on Saturday night. The explosion slightly wounded three police officers who had been called to inspect a suspicious item. Tongsak says seven civilian security officers suffered minor injuries in another explosion in Pattani on Saturday while traveling in a pickup truck.

Former Maldives president leaves Indian Embassy

MALE, Maldives (AP)—The former president of the Maldives left the country's Indian Embassy on Saturday, after taking refuge there for 10 days because he said his life was under threat. Mohamed Nasheed arrived at the embassy on Feb. 13 after a court ordered his arrest for not attending a hearing on charges that he illegally ordered the detention of a senior judge, a move that led to his ouster from power last year. The court issued a second warrant during Nasheed's stay at the embassy, but police were unable to execute it because they were not allowed to enter a diplomatic building. Nasheed has said the case against him is politically motivated to disqualify him from contesting the presidential election scheduled for September.

Talk of peace with Pakistan Taliban angers victims

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Hazratullah Khan, who lost his right leg below the knee in a car bombing, answers immediately when asked whether the Pakistani government should hold peace talks with Taliban leaders responsible for attacks like the one that maimed him.

"Hang them alive," said the 14-year-old, who survived the explosion on his way home from school. "Slice the flesh off their bodies and cut them into pieces. That's what they have been doing to us."

Khan, who is from the Khyber tribal region, pondered his future recently at a physical rehabilitation center in Peshawar.

"What was my crime that they made me disabled for the rest of my life?" he asked as he touched his severed limb.

In recent weeks, the Pakistani government and Taliban forces fighting in northwestern tribal areas have expressed an interest in peace talks to end the years-long conflict. An estimated 30,000 civilians and 4,000 soldiers have died in terrorist attacks in Pakistan since Sept. 11, 2001—many at the hands of the Pakistani Taliban.

To many victims of Taliban violence, the idea of negotiating with people responsible for so much human pain is abhorrent. Their voices, however, are rarely heard in Pakistan,

a country where people have long been conflicted about whether the Taliban are enemies bent on destroying the state or fellow Muslims who should be welcomed back into the fold after years of fighting.

The Associated Press spoke with victims of terrorist attacks in Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and the tribal areas and their families to find out how they felt about negotiating peace with the Taliban.

Khan's classmate, Fatimeen Afridi, who was also injured in the same bombing in Khyber, said he would be happy to see negotiations with the militants—but only after those who maimed him were pun-

ished. Afridi's left leg was amputated below the knee, shattering his dream of becoming a fast bowler on Pakistan's cricket team.

"If I find them, I will throw them in a burning clay oven," he said.

The push for peace talks gained momentum in December when the leader of the Pakistani Taliban offered to negotiate. The government responded positively, and even hinted that the militants would not need to lay down their weapons before talks could begin. That would be a reversal of the government's long-held position that any talks be preceded by a ceasefire.

World

Pope gives final Sunday blessing before resigning

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI bestowed his final Sunday blessing of his pontificate on a cheering crowd in St. Peter's Square, explaining that his waning years and energy made him better suited to the life of private prayer he soon will spend in a secluded monastery than as leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

On Thursday evening, the 85-year-old German-born theologian will become the first pope to have resigned from the papacy in 600 years.

Sunday's noon appearance from his studio window over-

looking the vast square was his next-to-last appointment with the public of his nearly eight-year papacy. Tens of thousands of faithful and other admirers have already asked the Vatican for a seat in the square for his last general audience Wednesday.

Perhaps emotionally buoyed by the warm welcome, thunderous applause and the many banners reading "Grazie" (Thanks) held up in the crowd estimated by police to number 100,000, Benedict looked relaxed and sounded energized, in sharp contrast to his apparent frailty

and weariness of recent months.

In a strong and clear voice, Benedict told the pilgrims, tourists and Romans in the square that God had called him to dedicate himself "even more to prayer and meditation," which he will do in a monastery being renovated for him on the grounds behind Vatican City's ancient walls.

"But this doesn't mean abandoning the church," he said, as many in the crowd looked sad at his approaching departure. "On the contrary, if God asks me, this is because I can continue to serve it (the church)

with the same dedication and the same love which I have tried to do so until now, but in a way more suitable to my age and to my strength."

The phrase "tried to" was the pope's adlibbed addition to his prepared text.

Benedict smiled in pleasure at the crowd after an aide parted the white curtain at his window and he gazed at the people packing the square, craning their head for a look at him. Giving greetings in several languages, he gratefully acknowledged what he said was an outpouring of "gratitude, affection and

closeness in prayer" since he stunned the church and its 1.2 billion members on Feb. 11 with his decision to renounce his papacy and retreat into a world of contemplation.

"Prayer is not isolating oneself from the world and its contradictions," Benedict told the crowd. He said he had heard God's call to prayer, "which gives breath to our spiritual

life" in a special way "at this moment of my life."

Heavy rain had been forecast for Rome, and some drizzle dampened the square earlier in the morning. But when Benedict appeared, to the peal of church bells as the clock struck noon, blue sky crept through the clouds.

"We thank God for the sun he has given us," the pope said.

Syria rebels fight for police academy near Aleppo city

BEIRUT (AP)—Rebels backed by captured tanks launched a fresh offensive on a government complex housing a police academy near the northern city of Aleppo on Sunday, while the government hit back with airstrikes to try to protect the strategic installation, activists said.

If rebels capture the complex on the outskirts of Aleppo, it would mark another setback for President Bashar Assad. In recent weeks, his regime has lost control of key infrastructure in the northeast including a hydroelectric dam, a major oil field and two army bases along the road linking Aleppo with the airport to its east.

Rebels also have been hitting the heart of Damascus with occasional mortars shells or bombings, posing a stiff challenge to the regime in its seat of power.

On Saturday, opposition fighters in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour overran a military post believed to have once been the site of a partly built nuclear reactor that Israeli warplanes bombed in 2007.

A year after the strike, the U.N. nuclear watchdog determined that the destroyed building's size and structure fit specifications of a nuclear reactor. Syria never stated the purpose of the site known as Al-Kibar.

After the bombing, the re-

gime carted away all the debris from the destroyed building and equipment from the two standing structures, analysts said, adding that the rebels were unlikely to have found any weapons in the abandoned complex. There were troops in the area until this weekend. It was not clear what the site was being used for most recently.

"It's more or less a shell because the Syrians decided to remove everything inside the buildings," said Mustafa Alani, an analyst with the Gulf Research Center in Geneva. "I don't think there's anything left really of any value for the rebels."

Separately, rebels have been trying for months to storm the government complex west of Aleppo in the suburb of Khan al-Asal, according to Rami Abdul-Rahman, the director of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The facility also includes several smaller army outposts charged with protecting the police academy inside the compound.

The SANA state news agency said regime troops repelled the rebel attack on the police academy, inflicting heavy losses and destroying four armored vehicles and three cars fitted with machine guns. There was no word on government casualties.



Pope Benedict XVI delivers his blessing during his last Angelus noon prayer, from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013.

Raul Castro gets new term, says it will be last

HAVANA (AP)—Raul Castro announced Sunday that he will step down as Cuba's president in 2018 following a final five-year term, for the first time putting a date on the end of the Castro era. He tapped rising star Miguel Diaz-Canel as his top lieutenant and first in the line of succession.

The 81-year-old Castro also said he hopes to establish two-term limits and age caps for political offices including the presidency—an astonishing prospect for a nation led by Castro or his older brother Fidel since the 1959 revolution.

The 52-year-old Diaz-Canel is now a heartbeat from the presidency and has risen higher than any other Cuban official who didn't directly participate in the heady days of the revolution.

"This will be my last term,"

Castro said, his voice firm.

In his 35-minute speech, Castro hinted at other changes to the constitution, some so dramatic that they will have to be ratified by the Cuban people in a referendum. Still, he scotched any idea that the country would soon abandon socialism, saying he had not assumed the presidency in order to destroy Cuba's system.

"I was not chosen to be president to restore capitalism to Cuba," he said. "I was elected to defend, maintain and continue to perfect socialism, not destroy it."

Castro fueled interest in Sunday's legislative gathering after mentioning on Friday his possible retirement and suggesting lightheartedly that he had plans to resign at some point.

It's now clear that he was dead serious when he promised that

Sunday's speech would have fireworks, and would touch on his future in leadership.

Cuba is at a moment of "historic transcendence," Castro told lawmakers in speaking of his decision to name Diaz-Canel to the No. 2 job, replacing the 81-year-old Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, who fought with the Castros in the Sierra Maestra.

Castro said that Diaz-Canel's promotion "represents a definitive step in the configuration of the future leadership of the nation through the gradual and orderly transfer of key roles to new generations."

Since taking over from Fidel in 2006, Castro has instituted a slate of important economic and social changes, expanding private enterprise, legalizing a real estate market and relaxing hated travel restrictions.

Still, the country remains ruled by the Communist Party and any opposition to it lacks legal recognition.

Castro has mentioned term limits before, but he has never said specifically when he would step down, and the concept has yet to be codified into Cuban law.

If he keeps his word, Castro will leave office no later than 2018. Cuban-American exiles in the United States have waited decades for the end of the Castro era, although they will likely be dismayed if it ends on the brothers' terms.

Nevertheless, the promise of a change at the top could have deep significance for U.S.-Cubans. The wording of Washington's 51-year economic embargo on the island specifies that it cannot be lifted while a Castro is in charge.

WORLD BRIEFS

Prisoner's death stokes fears of third uprising

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The mysterious death of a 30-year-old Palestinian gas station attendant in Israeli custody stoked new West Bank clashes Sunday, along with Israeli fears of a third Palestinian uprising. A senior Palestinian official alleged that Arafat Jaradat was tortured by Israel's Shin Bet security service, citing an autopsy he said revealed bruising and two broken ribs. Israel's Health Ministry said the autopsy did not conclusively determine the cause of death, but that the bruising and broken ribs were likely the result of attempts to revive the detainee. Jaradat's death came at a time of rising West Bank tensions, including several days of Palestinian marches in support of four hunger-striking prisoners in Israeli lockups. In all, Israel holds nearly 4,600 Palestinians, including dozens who have never been formally charged.

Greece helicopter prison escape attempt foiled

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A helicopter swooped down on a prison courtyard Sunday as armed men on board fired on guards and lowered a rope to help a convicted killer make his fourth attempt to escape from a Greek prison. But the plot was foiled after the prisoner was shot and the chopper forced to land in the prison's parking lot. The dramatic escape attempt was one of a handful involving helicopters in Greece, and the first time such plans have failed.

Focus

NZealand's slow quake recovery shows rich struggle

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—Two years after an earthquake devastated New Zealand's second largest city, killing 185 and rattling Phil Thompson's suburban house off its foundations, the 65-year-old retiree still lives in a cramped trailer home parked on the incongruously neat lawn in front of his twisted wooden bungalow.

Thompson, along with virtually everyone else in Christchurch, had thought the city would be closer to recovery by now. Instead he and his partner are resigned to spending a third southern hemisphere winter in the poorly insulated camper, venturing into the sagging house to use the toilet. Downtown, a temporary shopping center in brightly colored shipping containers has become a symbol of resilience, but most of the historic center remains a post-apocalyptic ghost town. "Beyond The Cordon" bus tours take sightseers behind chain-link security fences to see the ruins of the Feb. 22, 2011, quake.

Christchurch is but one example of how even the wealthiest countries struggle to recover from large-scale catastrophes. In some cases, developing countries may be better off. Within two years of a 2004 tsunami, half the 100,000 permanent homes needed in Indonesia had been completed, and almost 700 schools had been built or repaired. But in Japan, nearly two years after the March 2011 tsunami flattened the northeast coast, few homes have been rebuilt.

"Many people in developing countries don't rely much on governments, and even after a disaster, they just go ahead and do it," said Peter McCawley, an economist at the Australian National University and a specialist on disaster relief policy. "They often do it to low standards, but they just go ahead and fix it anyway."

Conversely, disaster agencies in the wealthiest countries have become "far too bureaucratic and tied up in rules," he said from Jakarta, where he is on leave to work on an aid project.

A major bottleneck in Christchurch is insurance. Most claims haven't been paid, as insurance companies and a government insurance fund that covers damage up to 100,000 New Zealand dollars (\$85,000) tussle over who should pay for what. Continuing aftershocks—topping 11,000 last month—have added to the delays, as insurers wait for the ground to become more stable.

"It would have been totally irresponsible to have set about



In this Jan. 16, 2013 photo, a tourist photographs the demolition of a building in downtown Christchurch, New Zealand. The city's population has declined by 13,500, or 3.6 percent, from the 380,000 people it had before the magnitude 6.3 earthquake. Some have left by choice; others because they had nowhere left to live.

rebuilding somebody's house ... whilst the ground is shaking, only to have it severely damaged again or destroyed by the next quake that comes along," said Tim Grafton, chief executive of the New Zealand Insurance Council, an industry group.

Insurers have only been able to contemplate starting major repair work in the past six months, he said. Some had reimbursed homeowners for repairs after a September 2010 earthquake, only to see the same homes flattened five months later by the February quake, which left 14,000 homes either destroyed or condemned.

"A lot of my constituents are looking to me and saying, 'Well gosh, we've been told by our insurer that we're not even going to really know what's going to happen for us until 2015,'" said Lianne Dalziel, an opposition lawmaker who represents Christchurch's ravaged eastern suburbs. "This is psychologically debilitating."

Thompson wasn't insured, which he has come to regard as a blessing as others battle for payouts.

His problems started after his neighborhood was rezoned "orange," and then "Technical Category 3," the least stable outside the now off-limits red zones. He hasn't been able to lay a new foundation, he said, because

the national government keeps changing the requirements for soil testing and foundation design in his zone.

"We're still waiting, waiting, waiting for bureaucracy to come out with what they're going to need. They keep changing their mind and that's what I'm stuck with," he said outside his 69-year-old home, now perched precariously on wooden blocks. "Looks like another winter in the caravan again."

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment said in a statement that its guidance document for repairing and rebuilding houses had "fundamentally remained the same," although it has been "updated, clarified and made more accessible."

Thompson and his partner Debra Savage rely on a garden tap for drinking and cooking water. They drive 9 kilometers (6 miles) three times a week to shower at a friend's home. The electricity remains disconnected because of fire and electrocution risks from damaged wiring. He still pays full property tax on the house, and a city official challenged him for having an unapproved shipping container on the property to store salvaged belongings. The official later relented, accepting that it could be classified as a temporary

fixture because of emergency circumstances.

"You'd be better off in a Third World country," Thompson said. "You could get on with your life."

But Mark Skidmore, a Michigan State University economist who has studied the impacts of natural disasters, said wealthy countries generally fare better.

He has co-authored studies with Japanese economist Hideki Toya that show that as economies develop, they suffer fewer disaster-related deaths and less damage as a proportion of GDP. While not directly comparable, the 2011 tsunami killed 19,000 in Japan, while about 230,000 perished in the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia and 11 other countries.

"Wealthy countries are able to rebound more quickly than poorer countries," Skidmore said. "Highly developed insurance and financial markets enable resources to flow into affected areas more quickly. Higher levels of income and other resources, including effective government operations, is also important."

Indonesia in some ways was an exception, because so much aid money flowed in, and it was relatively well managed. Haiti is still struggling to come back from a massive earthquake that struck its densely populated

capital three years ago, the slow recovery attributed largely to political dysfunction and the magnitude of the disaster.

In Christchurch, Mayor Bob Parker said rebuilding houses could take another two years to complete, while bigger projects such as a hospital, convention center and performing arts center may require six. The shipping-container mall, with bank branches, fashion shops and a two-story cafe, has become a vibrant though temporary new city heart amid the rubble and din of heavy machinery demolishing condemned buildings.

"We are on the cusp, really, of that full-speed rebuild," he said from the high-rise city council building near the downtown disaster area. "All the plans have been laid, the rebuild is ramping up all the time."

The city's population has declined by 13,500, or 3.6 percent, from the 380,000 people it had before the magnitude 6.3 earthquake. Some have left by choice; others because they had nowhere left to live. Parker predicts a rebound as the NZ\$35 billion (\$29.5 billion) reconstruction gathers pace, powering an anticipated economic boom that would draw in outside workers.

"Two years down the track, I think we've made amazing progress," he said. "It's never

as fast as anyone would imagine because the scale has been huge," he said.

The earthquake is the costliest natural disaster in New Zealand history. It is expected to exhaust the NZ\$6 billion held by the Earthquake Commission, the government insurer created after a 1931 quake killed 256 and led private insurers to limit their coverage. Taxpayers will have to meet the commission's further costs.

The slow progress in Christchurch is typical of a major disaster in a wealthy country, said Paul Dalziel, an economist at Lincoln University outside Christchurch and the sister of the opposition lawmaker. As part of a global network developing new disaster recovery protocols for rich countries, he has been studying the magnitude 6.3 earthquake that claimed 309 lives in L'Aquila in central Italy in 2009.

"It's a universal problem that when an event of this scale occurs, it's not easy for individuals to make decisions because they have such widespread ramifications," said Dalziel, whose home was damaged in the quake. "I don't think it's to criticize anybody in particular. It's just a reality that we don't cope well with disasters of this scale."

Environment

Tesla Model S a truly competitive premium sedan

By DAVID UNDERCOFFLER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Tesla Model S may be a silent car, but other automakers will no doubt hear it coming.

In its first crack at a premium sedan, the Silicon Valley electric-car maker has matched or beaten the likes of the Audi A7 or Mercedes-Benz CLS—products of a century of German engineering. Similarly packaged as a sleek four-door coupe, the Model S delivers the performance and polish implied by its \$89,770 price.

All that's missing is the roar of internal combustion.

Ask the folks at Tesla Motors Inc. how they pulled this off and they'll say Tesla isn't a car company. It's a tech company, headquartered in a hive of innovation that helped lure the sharp minds who conceptualized the car from an outsider's perspective.

Nearly a week spent in the car's high-tech cockpit suggests that Tesla has a legitimate shot at making automotive history with truly competitive electric cars.

If Tesla is a technology company, the evidence starts with the car's innovative infotainment system. The 17-inch touch screen controls nearly everything—including navigation, stereo, climate control and driving settings. As clear and touch-sensitive as an Ap-

The 2013 Tesla Model S. The Model S was built from scratch, unlike the company's Roadster, which is built on the chassis of a Lotus sports car.

MCT



NUTS & BOLTS

Vehicle type: four-door hatchback sedan
Powertrain: AC synchronous electric motor, liquid-cooled 85 kWh lithium-ion battery pack
Transmission: Single-speed fixed gear
Horsepower: 362
Torque (pound-feet): 325
0-60 mph: 5.6 seconds

Range: 265 miles, according to the EPA
Los Angeles Times' take: Real car, unreal acceleration
Highs: Silent stalker on the freeway; competes with German luxury cars
Lows: a heavy foot kills range; Tesla's uncertain future
Base price: \$81,820, before tax incentives or rebates
Price as tested: \$89,770

ple iPad, the huge screen can easily accommodate multiple functions at once.

You can view the Google Maps-based navigation on one half of the screen while fiddling with radio controls on the other. Or swap the two. Or close one of them and bring up a new function—say, the phone or the Internet browser. Or just expand one function to

cover the whole screen.

But the most impressive technology resides in the guts of the Model S. The car overflows with torque, that delicious by-product of electric propulsion. Despite a portly curb weight—a comparable Audi A7 weighs about 400 pounds less—the S clears zero to 60 mph in a mere 5.6 seconds.

Our test car, rated at 362

horsepower and 325 pound-feet of torque, uses an 85-kilowatt-hour battery to power the rear wheels through an electric motor. The battery comes in the premium version of the Model S—the only one currently produced, with a base price of \$81,820, including delivery, before any state or federal tax incentives. Additional options on our test car included the tech

package, an upgraded sound system and air suspension.

Tesla has promised two less expensive versions of the car with smaller batteries, meaning decreased power and range.

Power in the premium Model S comes from roughly 1,000 pounds of lithium-ion cells—all integrated into the car's floor pan, an innovative setup giving the Model S a low center of

gravity and a stiff chassis. The underside of the battery pack forms the underside of the car.

In eager driving, the S doesn't feel exactly light, but it carries its weight well, with no excessive body roll in turns. Drivers can use the touch screen to select one of three different steering modes, although the most aggressive 'sport' setting proved a little too firm in most driving situations.

The brakes on the Model S are plenty strong, and fortunately are not the regenerative variety you'll find on most gas-electric hybrids, which have a mushy, grabby feel.

Mash the go-pedal, and the Tesla plants you in your seat and rushes forward with eerily little feedback, save for the faint whirl of the motor behind you. The addicting experience is not unlike being flung out of a giant sling-shot.

The trouble is that repeated demonstrations of the car's prodigious power utterly destroy its range. Tesla says this model will go 300 miles on a single charge. The EPA puts that number at 265 miles. Over four days of testing the car, we managed only about 160 miles in heavy-footed driving.

All Model S's will charge through a 120V or 240V outlet. Tesla says the former needs roughly 46 hours to recharge fully, while the latter needs eight to 10 hours.

UNDER THE HOOD

Brake light easily repaired at home

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: The center brake light on my 2005 Chrysler Sebring convertible has gone out, and the owner's manual advises to have a professional repair it. I feel fairly confident I could fix this, but before I go and pop the light compartment off, I am hoping you can shine some light on this repair.—Wes Beaird

ANSWER: This should be a simple and satisfying home repair. Your center high mount stop light, or CHMSL, is integrated into a molding that wraps around the convertible top boot, just in front of the trunk. The molding needs to be removed from the car, then the CHMSL lamp housing is removed from the molding.

The published procedure is as follows: Lower the convertible top. Disconnect and isolate the battery negative terminal. Open the trunk and remove the molding fasteners—there are five spanning across, and they're visible once the front edge of the trunk lid lifts up and away.

Pull back the trunk liner material to allow the CHMSL wiring connector to be found and unplugged. Remove the molding and remove the CHMSL fasteners and CHMSL unit from it. Renew the bulb—it's No. 921, which is widely available for about \$2. Installation is the reverse of disassembly.

Q: What's your opinion of the oil-life indicator used on my car and SUV? It seems that I'm allowed to go a lot further than I would have thought. Are these reliable?—Teck Ky

A: Both of your vehicles likely use information gleaned from the engine management system's sensors and a sophisticated algorithm to infer oil condition. Startup temperature, number of starts, run times, engine load, operating temperature and other factors are crunched in order to infer remaining oil life.

I believe this is a much smarter approach than simply going by months or miles. Rather than letting the clock run all the way down, I prefer to utilize the smarts but take a conservative

approach by changing my oil and filter with 30 percent oil life remaining.

Q: I've noticed my turn signals flash faster when turning left than when I turn right. It's almost twice the speed, so I know something isn't right. Can you help?—Rose C.

A: Fast flashing indicates less electric current is being delivered to the left side, which usually means a faulty bulb. On older cars, the thermal type flasher cycles slower. Try engaging the hazard flashers and walk around the vehicle, observing brightness at each corner, compared to the across-car mate. Many vehicles use multiple bulbs in wide or tall lamp housings, making it a little less obvious that one bulb may be inoperative. Most bulbs are easier to renew than Wes's CHMSL, discussed above.

Q: While driving this afternoon, my temperature gauge shot immediately to full hot at the top of the red range. I pulled over as soon as I could and checked for leaks, and there were none. The engine

didn't seem to be any hotter than normal. I assumed it might be an incorrect gauge and drove straight home. After being parked for about two hours I checked the temperature again, and it was still hot. What do you think is wrong?—Tara Butler

ANSWER: You did a great job explaining how this all unfolded. It sounds like the temperature gauge circuit has encountered a fault that caused it to read at its limit, regardless of actual engine temperature. You were wise to take the reading at face value initially, because an overheating engine can lead to incredibly expensive repair costs. Because the gauge needle moved immediately to hot and continued to stay there with a cooled-down engine, we can suspect it's likely the only problem—but it's best to play it safe.

Verifying the actual operating temperature of an engine can be done in several ways. The most accurate is to connect an inexpensive OBD-II generic scan tool, which costs \$50-\$100 at most auto parts stores and online, to the vehicle's data link connector, typically found under the instrument panel on the

driver's side. The scan tool's data list will include engine temperature, obtained by the engine management system's highly accurate temperature sensor. Some vehicles employ separate engine coolant temperature sensors for the management system and instrument panel gauge, or the information from a single sensor may be shared.

A note of caution: Some vehicles will display a seemingly correct, default (made-up) scan tool data value when the actual sensor reading is deemed invalid. It's meant to provide proper engine performance but can be misleading.

Another method is to touch and firmly hold a digital cooking thermometer to the thermostat housing of the engine—generally where the upper radiator hose connects to the engine. An analog or needle-type gauge will also work, but it needs to be held there for a longer time. An infrared noncontact temperature gun is another, very convenient way to check engine, brake and other automotive system temperatures; point the gun at the thermostat housing. Normal engine operating temperature is between 190 and 200 degrees Fahrenheit, and most electric

cooling fans engage at around 220-235 degrees.

Did your "check engine" light illuminate soon after the temperature gauge irregularity? If the vehicle uses a shared engine coolant temperature, or ECT, sensor, this would be likely, as an extremely low or high reading can affect emissions compliance.

Without knowing the vehicle make and model, it's difficult to say where the fault may lie. You may have a faulty ECT sensor, circuit fault, or instrument panel malfunction. I'd recommend checking the coolant level and gauge operation one more time before driving again. If the gauge continues to read high temperatures with the engine stone-cold, it's clearly wrong. Then I'd get it to a shop as soon as possible. You don't want to drive without a functioning temperature gauge, especially as you aren't able to validate actual temperature.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Affleck's 'Argo' wins best-picture Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ben Affleck's "Argo," a film about a fake movie, has earned a very real prize: best picture at the Academy Awards.

From the White House, first lady Michelle Obama joined Jack Nicholson to help present the final prize.

"There are eight great films that have every right, as much a right to be up here as we do," Affleck said of the other best-picture nominees.

In share-the-wealth mode, Oscar voters spread Sunday's honors among a range of films, with "Argo" winning three trophies but "Life of Pi" leading with four.

Daniel Day-Lewis joined a select group of recipients with his third Oscar, taking the best-actor trophy for his monumental performance as Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War saga "Lincoln."

"Hunger Games" star Jennifer Lawrence triumphed in Hollywood's big games, winning the best actress as a damaged soul in "Silver Linings Playbook," while Ang Lee pulled off a huge upset as best director for "Life of Pi."

Anne Hathaway went from propping up leaden sidekick James Franco at the Academy Awards to hefting a golden statue of her own with a supporting-actress Oscar win as a doomed mother-turned-prostitute in the musical "Les Misérables."

Christoph Waltz won his second supporting-actor Oscar for a Tarantino film, this time as a genteel bounty hunter in the slave-revenge saga "Django Unchained." Tarantino also won his second Oscar, for original screenplay for "Django."

Ang Lee pulled off a major upset, won best director for the shipwreck story "Life of Pi," taking the prize over Steven Spielberg, who had been favored for "Lincoln."

Lawrence took a fall on her way to the stage, tripping on the steps.

"You guys are just standing up because you feel bad that I fell," Lawrence joked as the crowd gave her a standing ovation.

At 22, Lawrence is the second-youngest woman to win best actress, behind Marlee Matlin, who was 21 when she won for "Children of a Lesser God." Lawrence also is the third-youngest best-actress contender ever, earning her first nomination at age 20 two years ago for her breakout role in "Winter's Bone," the film that took her from virtual unknown to one of Hollywood's most-versatile and sought-after performers.

With a monumental perfor-

mance as Abraham Lincoln, Day-Lewis became the only performer to win three best-actor Oscars, adding to the honors he earned for "My Left Foot" and "There Will Be Blood." He's just the sixth actor to earn three or more Oscars, tied with Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson, Ingrid Bergman and Walter Brennan with three each, and just behind Katharine Hepburn, who won four.

Hathaway, whose perkiness helped carry her and the listless Franco through an ill-starred stint as Oscar hosts two years ago, is the third performer in a musical to win supporting actress during the genre's resurgence in the last decade.

"It came true," said Hathaway, who joins 2002 supporting-actress winner Catherine Zeta-Jones for "Chicago" and 2006 recipient Jennifer Hudson for "Dreamgirls." Hathaway had warm thanks for "Les Miz" co-star Hugh Jackman, with whom she once sang a duet at the Oscars when he was the show's host.

Hathaway's Oscar came for her role as noble but fallen Fantine in the big-screen adaptation of the Broadway smash that was based on Victor Hugo's epic novel of revolution, romance and redemption in 19th century France.

"Life of Pi" also won for Mychael Danna's multicultural musical score that blends Indian and Western instruments and influences, plus cinematography and visual effects.

"I really want to thank you for believing this story and sharing this incredible journey with me," Lee said to all who worked on the film, a surprise blockbuster about a youth trapped on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger.

A veteran performer in Germany and his native Austria, Waltz had been a virtual unknown in Hollywood when Tarantino cast him as a gleefully evil Nazi in 2009's "Inglourious Basterds," which won him his first Oscar.

"I have to cast the right people to make those characters come alive," said Tarantino, who won previously for "Pulp Fiction." "And boy, this time, did I do it. Thank you so much, guys."

Waltz has since done a handful of other Hollywood movies, but it's Tarantino who has given him his two choicest roles. Backstage, Waltz had a simple explanation for why the collaboration works.

"Quentin writes poetry, and I



From left, George Clooney, Grant Heslov, and Ben Affleck pose with their awards for best picture for "Argo" during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

like poetry," Waltz said.

Oscar host Seth MacFarlane opened with a mildly edgy monologue that offered the usual polite jabs at the academy, the stars and the industry. He took a poke at academy voters over the snub of Ben Affleck, who missed out on a directing nomination for best-picture favorite "Argo," a thriller about the CIA's plot to rescue six Americans during the Iranian hostage crisis.

"The story was so top secret that the film's director is unknown to the academy," MacFarlane said. "They know they screwed up. Ben, it's not your fault."

"Argo" also claimed the Oscar for adapted screenplay for Chris Terrio, who worked with Affleck to create a liberally embellished story based on an article about the rescue and part of CIA operative Tony Mendez's memoir.

Terrio dedicated the award to Mendez, saying "33 years ago, Tony, using nothing but his creativity and his intelligence, Tony got six people out of a bad situation."

The foreign-language prize went to Austrian filmmaker Michael Haneke's old-age love story "Amour," which had been a major surprise with five nominations, including picture, director and original screenplay for Haneke and best actress for Emmanuelle Riva, who turned 86 on Sunday and would be the oldest acting winner ever.

The top prize winner at last year's Cannes Film Festival, "Amour" follows the agonizing story of an elderly man (Jean-Louis Trintignant) tending his wife (Riva) as she declines from age and illness.

Haneke thanked his own wife for supporting him in his work

for 30 years.

"You are the center of my life," Haneke said.

The Scottish adventure "Brave," from Disney's Pixar Animation unit, was named best animated feature. Pixar films have won seven of the 12 Oscars since the category was added.

"I just happen to be wearing the kilt," said "Brave" co-director Mark Andrews, who took the stage in his trademark Scottish garment.

The upbeat musical portrait "Searching for Sugar Man" took the documentary feature prize. The film follows the quest of two South African fans to discover the fate of acclaimed but obscure singer-songwriter Sixto Rodriguez, who dropped out of sight after two albums in the 1970s and was rumored to have died a bitter death.

"Thanks to one of the greatest singers ever, Rodriguez," said "Sugar Man" director Malik Bendjelloul.

There was a rare tie in one category, with the Osama bin Laden thriller "Zero Dark Thirty" and the James Bond tale "Skyfall" each winning for sound editing.

William Shatner made a guest appearance as his "Star Trek" character Capt. James Kirk, appearing on a giant screen above the stage during MacFarlane's monologue, saying he came back in time to stop the host from ruining the Oscars.

"Your jokes are tasteless and inappropriate, and everyone ends up hating you," said Shatner, who revealed a headline supposedly from the next day's newspaper that read, "Seth MacFarlane worst Oscar host ever."

The performance-heavy Oscars also included an opening number featuring Charli

performed her theme tune from "Skyfall," which won the best-song Oscar.

Barbra Streisand injected some musical sentiment into the show's segment memorializing Hollywood figures who died in the past year as she sang "The Way We Were," the Oscar-winning song she did in the film of the same name.

A salute to the resurgence of movie musicals in the last decade included Oscar winners Zeta-Jones singing "All That Jazz" from "Chicago" and Hudson doing "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" from "Dreamgirls." Hathaway and Jackman joined cast mates of best-picture contender "Les Misérables" to sing songs from their musical.

Academy officials said all performances were sung live.

Fans had pondered how far MacFarlane the impudent creator of "Family Guy," might push the normally prim and proper Oscars. MacFarlane was generally polite and respectful, showcasing his charm, wit and vocal gifts.

MacFarlane did press his luck a bit on an Abraham Lincoln joke, noting that Raymond Massey preceded "Lincoln" star Daniel Day-Lewis as an Oscar nominee for 1940's "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."

"I would argue that the actor who really got inside Lincoln's head was John Wilkes Booth," MacFarlane wisecracked, earning some groans from the crowd. "A hundred and 50 years later, and it's still too soon?"

WINNERS LIST

List of the 85th annual Academy Award winners announced Sunday in Los Angeles:

1. Best Picture: "Argo."
 2. Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis, "Lincoln."
 3. Actress: Jennifer Lawrence, "Silver Linings Playbook."
 4. Supporting Actor: Christoph Waltz, "Django Unchained."
 5. Supporting Actress: Anne Hathaway, "Les Misérables."
 6. Directing: Ang Lee, "Life of Pi."
 7. Foreign Language Film: "Amour."
 8. Adapted Screenplay: Chris Terrio, "Argo."
 9. Original Screenplay: Quentin Tarantino, "Django Unchained."
 10. Animated Feature Film: "Brave."
 11. Production Design: "Lincoln."
 12. Cinematography: "Life of Pi."
 13. Sound Mixing: "Les Misérables."
 14. Sound Editing (tie): "Skyfall," "Zero Dark Thirty."
 15. Original Score: "Life of Pi," Mychael Danna.
 16. Original Song: "Skyfall" from "Skyfall," Adele Adkins and Paul Epworth.
 17. Costume: "Anna Karenina."
 18. Documentary Feature: "Searching for Sugar Man."
 19. Documentary (short subject): "Inocente."
 20. Film Editing: "Argo."
 21. Makeup and Hairstyling: "Les Misérables."
 22. Animated Short Film: "Paperman."
 23. Live Action Short Film: "Curfew."
 24. Visual Effects: "Life of Pi."
- Oscar winners previously presented this season:
- Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award: **Jeffrey Katzenberg**
- Honorary Award: **Hal Needham**
- Honorary Award: **D.A. Pennebaker**
- Honorary Award: **George Stevens Jr.**
- Award of Merit: **Cooke Optics**

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Snitch

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Cast: Dwane Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Dwayne Johnson stars as a father who seeks revenge after his son is convicted of a crime he did not commit in this Lionsgate release from director Ric Roman Waugh. Susan Sarandon, Barry Pepper, and Benjamin Bratt head up the rest of the starring cast.



Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday	4:00	9:45
Saturday	4:00	9:45
Sunday	4:00	
Mon through Thurs	4:00	

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Astronaut Scorch Supernova finds himself caught in a trap when he responds to an SOS from a notoriously dangerous alien planet.



Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday	7:00
Saturday	1:00 7:00
Sunday	1:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs	7:00

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



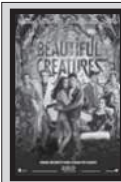
Good Day To Die Hard

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon through Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney
Genre: Action • Rated R

Synopsis

The story is set in Russia and begins with John McClane heading to Moscow to sweet talk some cops into letting his apparently-wayward son out of jail for something he did, but when he gets there, things surrounding his son's arrest are not as they appear and world-threatening terrorist hijinks ensue.



Beautiful Creatures

Friday	4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Cast: Emma Rossum, Emma Thompson, Jeremy Irons
Genre: Romance, Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Safe Haven

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon through Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Cast: Julianne Hough, Josh Duhamel, David Lyons
Genre: Romance • Rated PG 13



Warm Bodies

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich
Genre: Romance, Horror • Rated PG 13



Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen
Genre: Adventure • Rated R

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Armani, Dior rack up fashion wins at Oscars

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

Forget glamour girls Jessica Chastain versus Jennifer Lawrence. By the end of a long Oscars telecast, the only person who could have stolen the fashion conversation was first lady Michelle Obama—and she did.

She presented the best picture award almost at the stroke of midnight Sunday via video stream in a silver Naeem Khan gown. It was the sort of Cinderella style moment that red-carpet watchers hunger for.

Until then, the most heated chatter about the Academy Awards likely was the bold-face battle between Giorgio Armani and Dior Haute Couture.

Armani could claim some big wins: the designer dressed Chastain, Naomi Watts and Quvenzhané Wallis. Dior dressed Lawrence and Charlize Theron—both are spokesmodels—who hit it right in white.

Chastain, in a glistening copper-tone strapless gown with mermaid hem, looked like an old-world glamorous movie star, especially with her oversized vintage Harry Winston diamond earrings and bright red lipstick.

"I chose it because to me it was a throw-back to old Hollywood," she said. "It's a very 'Happy birthday, Mr. President' dress."

Watts wore a gunmetal beaded gown with a geometric cutout on the bodice, also by Armani.

Quvenzhané, with a silver headband in her hair and carrying a bedazzled puppy purse, wore an Armani Junior navy-blue dress with black, navy and silver jewels scattered on the skirt and a big bow on the back. She had another Armani dress, a pink one, ready for the afterparty. "I liked it because it was sparkly and puffy."

Lawrence was the belle of the ball in a white-and-pale pink strapless gown with fitted bustier and poufy hemline, sophisticated pulled-back hair, diamond-ball earrings and a delicate long necklace that hung down in back. The long train gave her trouble as she went to accept her award for best actress. She stumbled as she approached the stage to accept her Oscar.

Theron was sleek in an angular strapless dress with a fashion-right peplum and a buzz-cut hairdo.

Christos Garkinos, longtime red-carpet watcher and owner of Decades vintage store in Los Angeles, said, "You could have turned the TV off right when Charlize Theron came on. She was perfect."

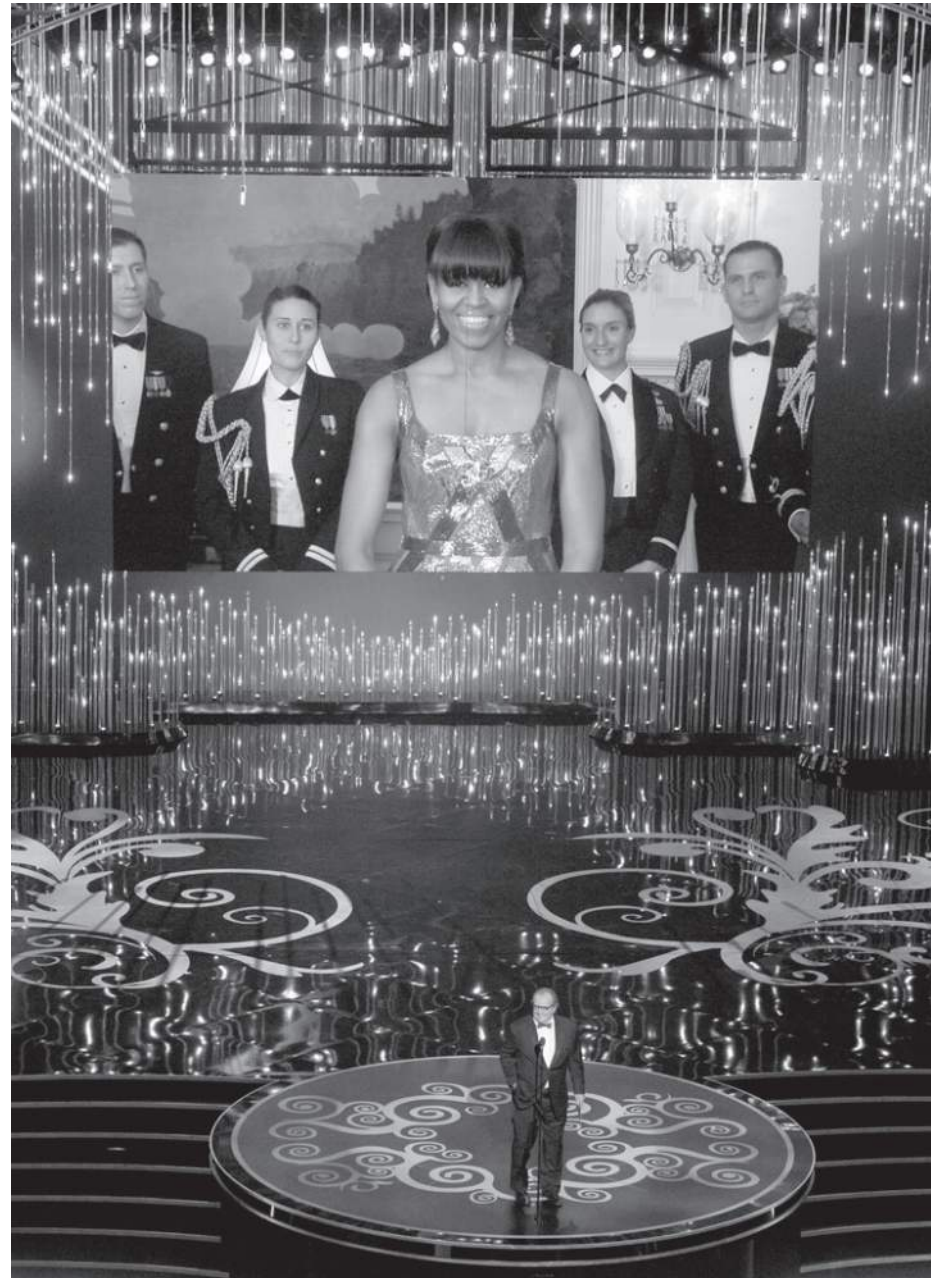
The more interesting chatter, however, could be about the Jane Fondas and Sally Fields of the world. Fonda wore bright taxicab yellow Versace and Sally Field was in bright red.

"Women of a certain age almost gave the feeling that the older you get, the bolder you get," Garkinos said.

Hal Rubenstein, editor at large of InStyle magazine, was pretty impressed by 86-year-old Emmanuelle Riva in Lanvin. "Jane Fonda looks amazing because she's Jane Fonda, but Emmanuelle Riva was so elegant."

Another look that had people talking was Anne Hathaway's pale pink Prada dress. Rubenstein called the dress and Tiffany & Co. necklace "an Audrey Hepburn moment."

Garkinos wasn't as kind. Thanks to some awkwardly placed darts in the bust, he said it was more like Gwyneth Paltrow's big Academy Awards moment, when she wore



AP
First lady Michelle Obama, appearing on screen, and actor Jack Nicholson present the award for best picture during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

a lovely Ralph Lauren pink dress but the fit wasn't quite right.

Hathaway, before the show, said her dress with a seemingly sweet vibe but with a strategically open back and sexy sides, was a last-minute choice. "It fit my mood and place where I'm at right now."

It almost seemed there were two routes to the red carpet, said Rubenstein: incredibly beaded and eye-catching, worn by Nicole Kidman in L'Wren Scott, Halle Berry in Versace, and Stacy Keibler in Naeem Khan; or a simple color with a great silhouette. He puts Lawrence, Reese Witherspoon in a strapless royal-blue Louis Vuitton gown with a black strip at the bustline and Jennifer Aniston in a Valentino red strapless gown in that camp.

"For some, there was a pull back to not do a lot, and that's where fashion is as well," Rubenstein said.

Amanda Seyfried's metallic halter dress by Alexander McQueen with a keyhole opening was three months in the making, and Berry said she trusted Donatella Versace to dress her like the Bond girl that she has been on the big screen. She ended up in a silver beaded-and-black gown with long sleeves and V-neck.

Jennifer Hudson's shiny, second-skin blue Roberto Cavalli almost looked like an animal print.

Kristen Stewart had an even paler blush

gown; hers a hand-beaded strapless with tulle inserts by Reem Acra. She accentuated her gown with a 19th-century Fred Leighton necklace with 91 graduated diamonds.

Jennifer Garner chose a violet-colored Gucci with cascading ruffles in the back. Her 200-carat diamond-and-dark platinum necklace from the Neil Lane archives was a big statement.

Beaded gowns had a strong presence, worn by Sandra Bullock, in a fully embroidered Elie Saab; Renee Zellweger, in a sleek Carolina Herrera; and Adele in Jenny Packham. Catherine Zeta-Jones was statuesque in an all-gold Zuhair Muhad. Queen Lati-fah's white V-neck tank dress by Badgley Mischka had a lot of sparkle on the straps.

Salma Hayek's midnight-blue velvet Alexander McQueen gown had a gold embellished collar, and she carried a gold skull box clutch.

Helen Hunt wore a little bit of her conscience along with her blue column gown. It was from fast-fashion retailer H&M. She chose it because it was both accessible and because the company has launched a substantial green initiative. She did wear it, however, with hundreds of thousands of dollars of borrowed jewels.

For the men, the trend was beards, with George Clooney, Bradley Cooper, Ben Affleck and Tommy Lee Jones, among them.

Adele's 'Skyfall' theme wins Oscar for best song

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Adele's "Skyfall" has won the Academy Award for best original song, a first for a James Bond theme.

While 007 themes have long been a beloved movie tradition, they've never before won an Oscar. Three previous Bond tunes were nominated: "For Your Eyes Only," "Nobody Does

It Better," and "Live and Let Die."

The Oscar extends Adele's award show dominance, leaving only an Emmy eluding her of the major American awards. She accepted the Oscar with producer Paul Epworth, with whom she wrote the lyrics and composed the music.

Adele also performed "Skyfall" for the first time at the Sunday night ceremony.

The other nominees were "Before My Time" from "Chasing Ice"; "Everybody Needs a Best Friend" from "Ted"; "Pi's Lullaby" from "Life of Pi"; and "Suddenly" from "Les Misérables."

MacFarlane doesn't mince words at Oscars

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

With jokes about domestic violence, breast-baring actresses, picking up Sally Field and a presidential assassination, Seth MacFarlane certainly didn't go soft during his first turn as Oscars host.

MacFarlane has the good looks and suave manner of a typical show host, but he was a nontraditional choice for the Oscars. His creative calling card is behind-the-scenes work, as maker of the TV show "Family Guy" and movie "Ted." He tried to soften it with self-deprecation, but MacFarlane quickly proved a polarizing choice.

After MacFarlane appeared uncomfortable telling jokes in the opening monologue, he brought on William Shatner via video hook-up for an extended riff on Shatner as a time traveler appearing from the future trying to save MacFarlane from himself.

It sent MacFarlane into some high concept comedy. He was shown in a song and dance routine, backed by the Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus, naming famous actresses and the films where they displayed their breasts. During a quick cutaway, Charlize Theron—one of the actresses named—did not appear amused.

In another skit, scenes from the movie "Flight" were performed by sock puppets. An overly long skit—again designed to illustrate MacFarlane's "bad taste"—showed him wearing a Flying Nun costume in an attempt to pick up Sally Field backstage.

McCarthy's 'Identity Thief' tops box office again

NEWYORK (AP)—Hollywood's latest films performed tepidly at the box-office on Oscar weekend, with Melissa McCarthy's "Identity Thief" returning to the top spot in its third week of release.

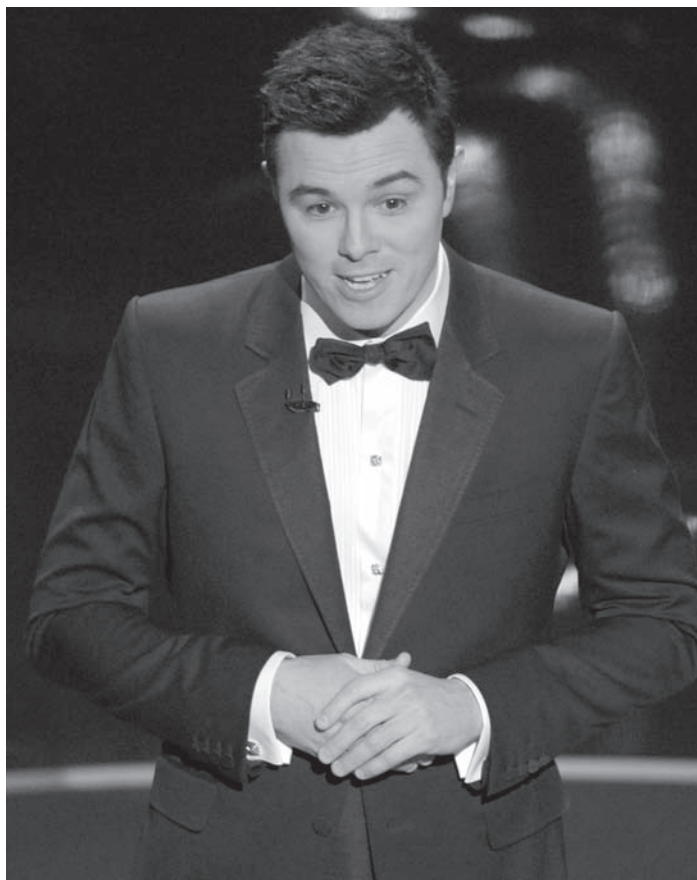
The Universal comedy earned \$14.1 million on the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, enough to regain the box-office title after losing it last week to 20th Century Fox's "A Good Day to Die Hard." The Bruce Willis action sequel faded

Prince to appear on Jimmy Fallon's show Friday

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince is continuing to ramp up his public profile. This week, he'll make an appearance on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon."

A rep for the late-night talk show confirmed the pop legend will appear on the show Friday and will perform two songs. It's not clear whether he'll perform new material or some of his classics.

The reclusive star has been back in the spotlight recently. He presented record of the year trophy at the Grammys, released the song "Screwdriver" on his new website and is due to perform several dates in Europe this summer.



Host Seth MacFarlane speaks onstage during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

MacFarlane drew groans with a reference to pop stars Rihanna and Chris Brown, back together as a couple four years after a domestic violence incident involving the two.

Talking about the movie "Django Unchained," MacFarlane called it "the story of a man fighting to get back his woman, who's been subject to unthinkable violence. Or as Chris Brown and Rihanna call it, a date movie."

MacFarlane drew more groans from the audience during a dis-

cussion of the movie "Lincoln" and actors who had portrayed the 19th Century president.

"I would argue that the actor who really got inside Lincoln's head was John Wilkes Booth," MacFarlane said.

He seemed to anticipate and delight in the response. "150 years and it's still too soon, huh? I've got some Napoleon jokes coming up."

In his opening monologue, MacFarlane delivered a quick, knowing poke at the academy for snubbing Ben Affleck as a

best director nominee for the movie "Argo." He referred to the movie's story about an undercover mission to rescue Americans trapped in Iran during the 1980 hostage crisis.

"The story is so top secret that the film's director is unknown to the academy," MacFarlane said.

He joked about "Lincoln" best actor nominee Daniel Day Lewis' habit of staying in character during filming days even when the cameras were turned off, addressing him: "If you bumped into Don Cheadle in the studio lot, would you try and free him?"

MacFarlane appeared to loosen up once his opening routine was over. He drew some laughs with a handful of solid jokes when talking about Quvenzhané Wallis, the 9-year-old best actress nominee for "Beasts of the Southern Wild." "George Clooney smiled at a joke about Wallis being a future dating partner.

The puppet teddy bear of "Ted" even got in a few Jewish jokes during a routine with Mark Wahlberg. The bear claimed to be Jewish, which he thought was a prerequisite for working in the film business.

"I was born Theodore Shapiro and I would like to donate money to Israel and continue to work in Hollywood forever," the bear said.

"You're an idiot," Wahlberg retorted.

Some of MacFarlane's jokes drew rebukes by tweeters, while his supporters countered that the Oscars should have known what they were getting when hiring him.

in wide release, Lionsgate's Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson action film, "Snitch," opened with \$13 million. That was a decent but not strong showing for "Snitch" in a year where action films have largely fared poorly.

Though "A Good Day to Die Hard," the fourth film in the franchise, led the box office last week, it slid 60 percent in its second week to \$10 million. But it continued to dominate internationally, bringing it to a three-week worldwide total to \$184.8 million. (It opened a week earlier in some countries.)

Earlier action films from Arnold Schwarzenegger ("The Last Stand"), Jason Statham ("Parker") and Sylvester Stallone ("Bullet to the Head") performed far worse.

The other new wide release was the Weinstein Co.'s "Dark Skies," a PG-13 horror film starring Keri Russell. It debuted with \$8.9 million.

'Beasts' star Quvenzhané Wallis cast as 'Annie'

NEW YORK (AP)—The young Oscar-nominated star of "Beasts of the Southern Wild" has been cast in the lead role of a new version of "Annie."

Sony Pictures announced Sunday that Quvenzhané (kwuh-VEHN'-juh-nay) Wallis will play Annie in a contemporized adaptation of the Broadway musical and the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip. It's to be directed by Will Gluck, who loosely based his 2010 film "Easy



Quvenzhané

the producers. The Smiths' daughter, Willow, had originally been slated to play Annie.

Husband's micromanagement wears thin on wife at home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: "Harold" and I have been married for more than 20 years and have three children ranging in age from teen to toddler. We are both college graduates and held middle-management jobs until recently.

Two years ago, Harold was offered a temporary job in an exotic location in another country. We jumped at the chance. I can't work due to the regulations here, but the money is good.

Now that I'm not working, Harold suddenly believes he has the right to tell me what to do, how to manage daily activities, how to care for the children, etc. When we explore our host country, he loses his temper if I take a photo of something he has already photographed.

At Halloween, we invited some local friends over to share the American tradition of pumpkin carving. He literally took the knife out of my hand and shouldered me out of the way so he could do it. In previous years, he had no interest in this activity—the children and I carved the pumpkins.

These are just two examples, but the scrutiny is daily and relentless. I am instructed how to do the laundry, wash dishes, clean the stove, on and on.

How do I deal with this new controlling behavior? If I address it when it happens, he becomes nasty. I have tried discussing his overall change in attitude, but he says I am "imagining" it. If I ignore his "suggestions," it results in angry outbursts.

I don't know how to get through to him that I'm the same competent individual I was before we made this change and that I do not need micromanaging. Any advice is welcome.

JUST ABOUT HAD IT

DEAR JUST ABOUT HAD IT: Your husband may be stressed in his new job and no longer feel in control, which is why he is attempting to control you. Or, because he is now the sole wage earner, he may feel "entitled" to dictate your every move. If you are now living in a male-dominated culture where women have no rights, his thinking may be influenced by the men around him.

If marriage counseling is available, I urge you to get some. If that's not possible, perhaps a long vacation for you and the children with your family would defuse the tension.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My son recently committed suicide. He was only 24. Two weeks before his death, he confided to a family member that he had been molested by his uncle when he was between the ages of 4 and 7.

I want this uncle to be exposed, but the family wants to keep it "quiet and in the family." I am very much of the opinion that this molestation could be behind my son's suicide. The uncle is now in his 30s and would have been in his teens when this happened. Please tell me what I should do.

SUFFERING IN OHIO

DEAR SUFFERING: Because you are suffering, it is important that you talk with a therapist if you haven't already. While early trauma may have played a part in your son's death, suicide is a complex act that is not completely understood.

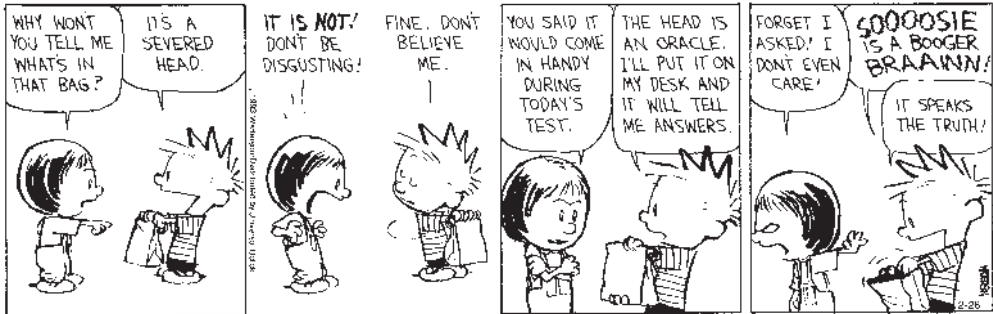
What IS clear is that what this uncle did while in his teens was predatory. Others in the family—and the community—should be made aware so their children can be protected, because they may be at risk. The therapist can help you decide how to deal with this, so please don't wait.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

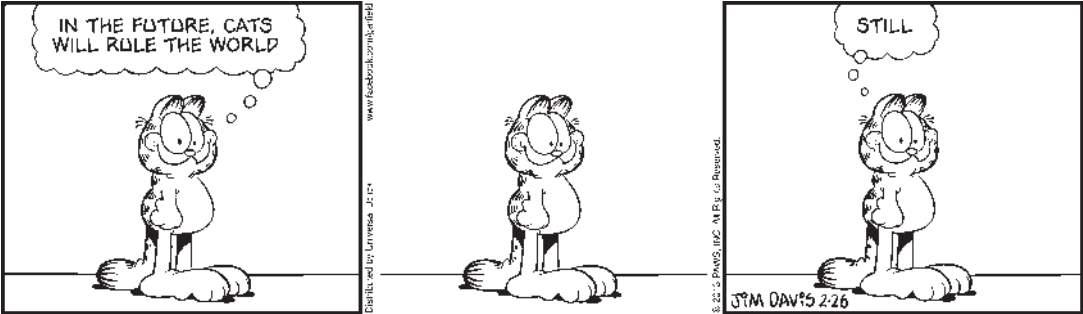
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

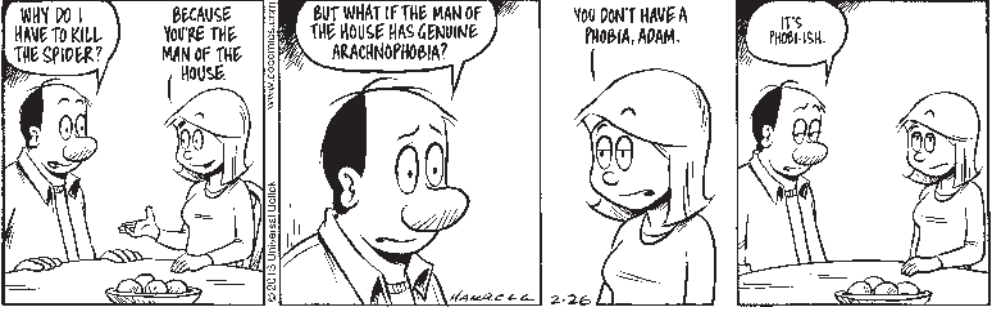
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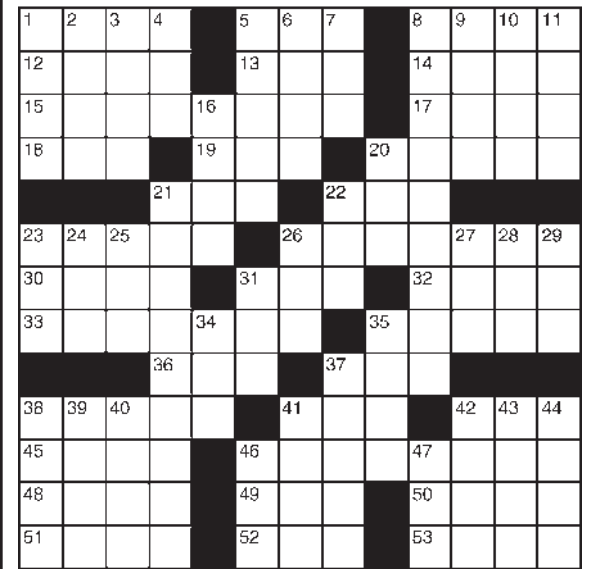
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Child 37 Whatever 1 "Dukes of Hazzard" 23 Sprite 25 Have a go at 26 Coquettish 27 Series of skirmishes 28 Actress Gardner 29 Still 31 Pop 34 Victory 35 Recognize 37 Earlier, in verse 38 Answer an invite 39 Hodgepodge 40 Halloween purchase 41 Hexagonal state 42 Former ugly duckling 43 Bridge position 44 Spud's buds 46 Drunkard 47 Lawyers' org.

DOWN 1 "Dukes of Hazzard" 2 Theater award 3 Wander 4 Born 5 Namely 6 Bat a gnat 7 Thickness 8 Disposable 9 Check 10 Sea eagle 11 Small barrels 16 Burn aid 20 Lustrous black 21 Made to come apart easily 22 Merri-ment 23 Sprite 25 Have a go at 26 Coquettish 27 Series of skirmishes 28 Actress Gardner 29 Still 31 Pop 34 Victory 35 Recognize 37 Earlier, in verse 38 Answer an invite 39 Hodgepodge 40 Halloween purchase 41 Hexagonal state 42 Former ugly duckling 43 Bridge position 44 Spud's buds 46 Drunkard 47 Lawyers' org.

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Corinne Bailey Rae, 34; Erykah Badu, 42; Mark Dacascos, 49; Michael Bolton, 60

Happy Birthday: Question every move. Focus on partnerships and how you can benefit from bartering with someone who has something you want. Sharing the workload along with ideas will enable you to stabilize your position and turn a mediocre relationship into a powerhouse that enables you to reach current goals and set new ones. Love is highlighted. Your numbers are 8, 11, 19, 22, 26, 30, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sharing too much information will work against you. Let your intuition guide you when dealing with peers, colleagues or contractual matters. Don't let uncertainty stop you from making a move. Believe in your abilities. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The favors and assistance you are given will depend on what you're willing to do in return. You can set up a workable relationship with someone looking to master the same market. Romance is highlighted. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may think you have everything under control, but unexpected situations will develop, leading to all sorts of emotional issues and alterations that must be dealt with swiftly yet moderately. Don't over-share. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let negativity take over. Recognize what you have and move in the direction that suits you best. There is so much you can gain by

interacting with the right people. Your life is on an upswing. Take advantage of whatever comes your way. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Bide your time. If you are too efficient, you will be given tasks that will slow down your progress. A lifestyle change will lead to an unusual but rewarding way to spend your time. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Work on important partnerships. You have plenty to gain if you nurture and share a relationship with someone accepting of your goals and willing to help you progress. Love is in the stars, and spending time with someone special will pay off. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of any business you have with banks, government, medical or legal institutions, and you will avoid a mishap that could set you back. Open, honest discussions will help you prove your point and persuade others to help you reach your goals. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your intuition guide you in your personal and professional dealings. When it comes to partnerships, you can gain through the people you associate with. A unique approach to how you run your home will make a difference. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Expect to face negativity and setbacks if you try to hide information from someone you have to deal with. Problems with friends, family and people in your community will cause unexpected changes in your status. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep moving forward. You'll have the ability to make significant alterations to how you earn your living and the people you get to work alongside. There are profits to be made. Love is highlighted. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Read the fine print before you agree to something. Not everyone will have your best interests in mind. Ulterior motives can cause you to make an emotional mistake that can cost you personally and financially. Question discrepancies. ***

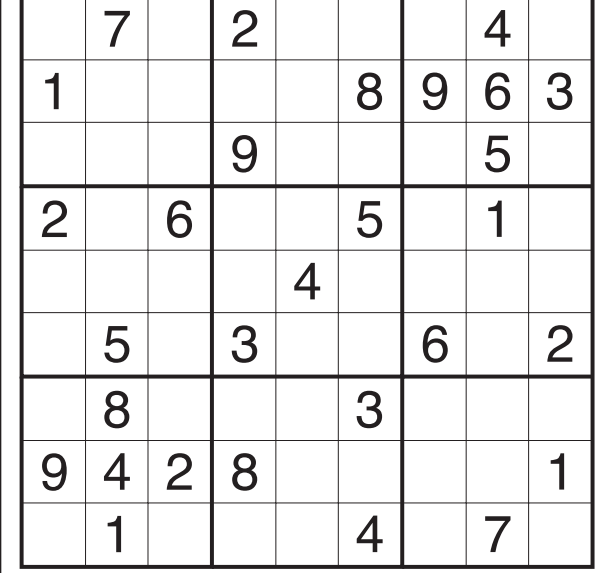
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Discuss your thoughts and emotions with someone you care for. You have to be on the same page if you plan on moving in a positive direction. Equality will make the difference in any personal or business partnership you form. ***

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, a dreamer and a compassionate, caring individual.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 2/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	5	6	8	9	2	1	7	4
9	7	1	6	4	5	8	2	3
8	4	2	3	7	1	5	6	9
7	9	3	4	5	6	2	1	8
5	1	8	7	2	9	4	3	6
6	2	4	1	3	8	9	5	7
1	6	7	2	8	4	3	9	5
2	8	9	5	6	3	7	4	1
4	3	5	9	1	7	6	8	2

Difficulty Level ★ 2/25

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EMMA WATSON Solution: 8 letters

D P L A Y A L E X A N D E R E
I E L L E W A L L F L O W E R
V R B G F O R B I D D E N T R
A K E N U I Y E N R U O J T E
D S R I R S L B B S T R A O U
E S I R A P T M O S M E O P D
S L F G S H O E S T D A B Y E
P A E N I N A R R O A M A R S
E C N I R P E G O C O M L R I
R I O L E R R L T D E E L A G
E S I B E A B R E R N S E H N
A U M C N F E L L O Y T R E
U M R G L S R E B M A H C A R
X O E A S E C I O V H T Y U R
S R H A N D B A G N O D N O L

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Actress, Alexander, Arts, Ballet, Bing Ring, Blood, Chamber, David, Designer, Despereaux, Duerre, Elle, Emma, Films, Fire, Forbidden, Goblet, Granger, Half, Handbag, Harry Potter, Hermione, Journey, London, Lucy, Model, Musical, Nina, Noah, Paris, Perks, Play, Poems, Prince, Secrets, Shoes, Sorcerers, Star, Stone, Tale, Toby, Voice, Wallflower

Yesterday's Answer: Earthworks

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(2) Jewelry Appraiser - Must have 4/5 yrs experience in jewelry appraisal, honest & trustworthy. Must be familiar w/ Microsoft word, excel & peachtree. Applicants must mail resume w/ valid identifications, police clearance & previous employment certifications to PLATINUM INC. 326 PPP Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950

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MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

CITY TRUST BANK,)
Plaintiff,)
)
-v-)
)
AMALIA DIAZ)
TEREGEYO, aka)
DEBRA AMALIA)
DIAZ TEREGEYO;)
VICENTE TILIPAO)
TEREGEYO; and)
JOSE DLG. DIAZ,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 12, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 041 E 18 (formerly part of Lot 041 E 06, which was part of original lot 041 E 01), situated in Talafofo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,050 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 041 E 03, the original of which was recorded 14 February 1995, as Document No. 95-356, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 24th day of January, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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Submit resume to:
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or call Tel. Nos. 235-5555 • 235-8888

Wanted – Commercial cleaner for diving business on Rota. Five years experience, high school diploma, 2 letters of recommendation from former employers and police clearance required. Minimum salary. Call 532-3423 for interview.

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- Valid CNMI driver's license

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or call: 670-323-9111

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Please send resume to P.O. Box 506448 or email to dipoto@naver.com

Wanted — (1) Technician with knowledge and skill in the operation of a screw type oil press and the processing of oils from nuts. H.S. diploma and 2 years experience preferred. Salary: \$5.55-\$6.05/hr. Call Mt. Tapochau Farms at 285-5730 for more info.

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Warehouse Building B

For additional information, please call
Tel: 670-285-1487 or
email: saisteve@pticom.com

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Salary: 5.55/hr

Installs, maintains and repairs machinery, equipment, physical structures and pipe and electrical systems in Horiguchi Bldg using hand tools, power tools, hoist, crane and testing instruments and following specification blueprints, manuals and schematic diagrams by visual inspection and tests. Assist on other maintenance duties as assigned.

Interested applicants may contact
Fuji Pacific, Inc. at 234-0583
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WHATZIT Solution: Wedding ring

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JVA No. 13-016

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(Revised 2-15-13)

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

**DIRECT RESPONSIBLE CHARGE OPERATOR
WASTEWATER TREATMENT LEVEL 2 CERTIFIED**

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western Pacific. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned. Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Positions assigned to Wastewater are also responsible for: Cleaning, maintaining, repairing and painting submersible pumps; Lifting, inspecting and replacing submersible pumps; Rewinding motors for emergency purposes; Fabricating, welding and bypassing pumps and pipes to ensure operation; Troubleshooting treatment plant problems; Performing maintenance and repairs on generators; Operating Vector trucks; Monitoring and performing preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes and lift stations; Taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments; Troubleshooting and maintaining control panels; Running sludge by oiling and cleaning the filter press; Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. This is a Direct Responsible Charge (DRC Operator) position required by Stipulated Order Number One of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Wastewater Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$32,500.00 to \$42,500 per year; Plus overtime; Un-classified. Current salary and specific experience will be used to determine pay rate at entry.

RELOCATION: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

POSITIONS: Two (2).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Licensing Requirement: Wastewater Treatment Level Two Certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)). Also required is a CNMI Driver's License or one from another U.S. jurisdiction. Education: High School Diploma, or General Education Diploma or Adult School Diploma through a U.S. state or territory Adult Basic Education program, "and" four (4) years of increasingly responsible experience related to the area assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

- United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail:

Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

- Fax: 670-235-5131
- Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Heat blow huge lead then beat Cavs for 11th in row



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James scored 28 points, Dwyane Wade scored 11 of his 24 in the final five minutes, and the Miami Heat extended the NBA's longest current winning streak to 11 games, beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 109-105 in a back-and-forth matchup Sunday night.

Mario Chalmers scored 16 points, Shane Battier added 14 and Ray Allen had 11 for the Heat, who took a 22-point lead early in the second half, then prevailed despite being outscored by a whopping 30 points over a 17-minute stretch.

Miami was down eight with 5:16 remaining, and still won.

Dion Waiters scored 26 points, C.J. Miles added 19 and Kyrie Irving scored 17 for Cleveland. The Cavaliers are now 1-8 against the Heat since James signed with Miami in July 2010.

Cleveland erased a 22-point deficit in the third quarter to take the lead, and led by 97-89 with 5:16 remaining—before the Heat found a way to come back.

Spurs 97, Suns 87

In Phoenix, Patty Mills and Kawhi Leonard scored 16 points apiece to lead six San Antonio players in double figures, and the Spurs ended their nine-game road trip with a win over Phoenix.

The Spurs, with Tony Parker out because of a sore right triceps, finished their annual long journey—caused by a rodeo back home—at 7-2 to boost their NBA-best record to 45-13.

Tiago Splitter scored nine of his 14 in San Antonio's 35-point second quarter.

Marcin Gortat scored 21 for Phoenix, 16 in the first half. Luis Scola added 15, and Goran Dragic had 10 points and 11 assists.

San Antonio beat the Suns for the sixth straight time and ninth in their last 10 meetings.

Knicks 99, 76ers 93

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points, Amare Stoudemire had a season-high 22 and New York snapped its longest losing streak of the season at four with a win over Philadelphia.

Anthony made 16 of 18 free throws and also was called for a flagrant foul for the fired-up Knicks, who have fallen behind Indiana into third place in the Eastern Conference and allowed their Atlantic Division lead over the Brooklyn Nets to shrink to one game.

They were sharp enough to build a couple of big leads and turn away the runs Philadelphia made, handing the 76ers their eighth straight road loss and fifth in a row overall.

Jrue Holiday had 30 points, five rebounds and five assists for the 76ers.

Thunder 102, Bulls 72

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 23 points, Kevin Durant had 19 points and 16 rebounds, and Oklahoma City held Chicago to the worst shooting performance in the NBA this season.

The Thunder, who had allowed an average of 113 points over their previous four games, broke out of a rough defensive patch by limiting Chicago to 29.1 percent shooting. Midway through the third quarter, Chicago had missed 44 of its 55 shots.

The Thunder led 61-39 at that point, and the margin reached 32 with both teams' starters sitting out the fourth quarter.

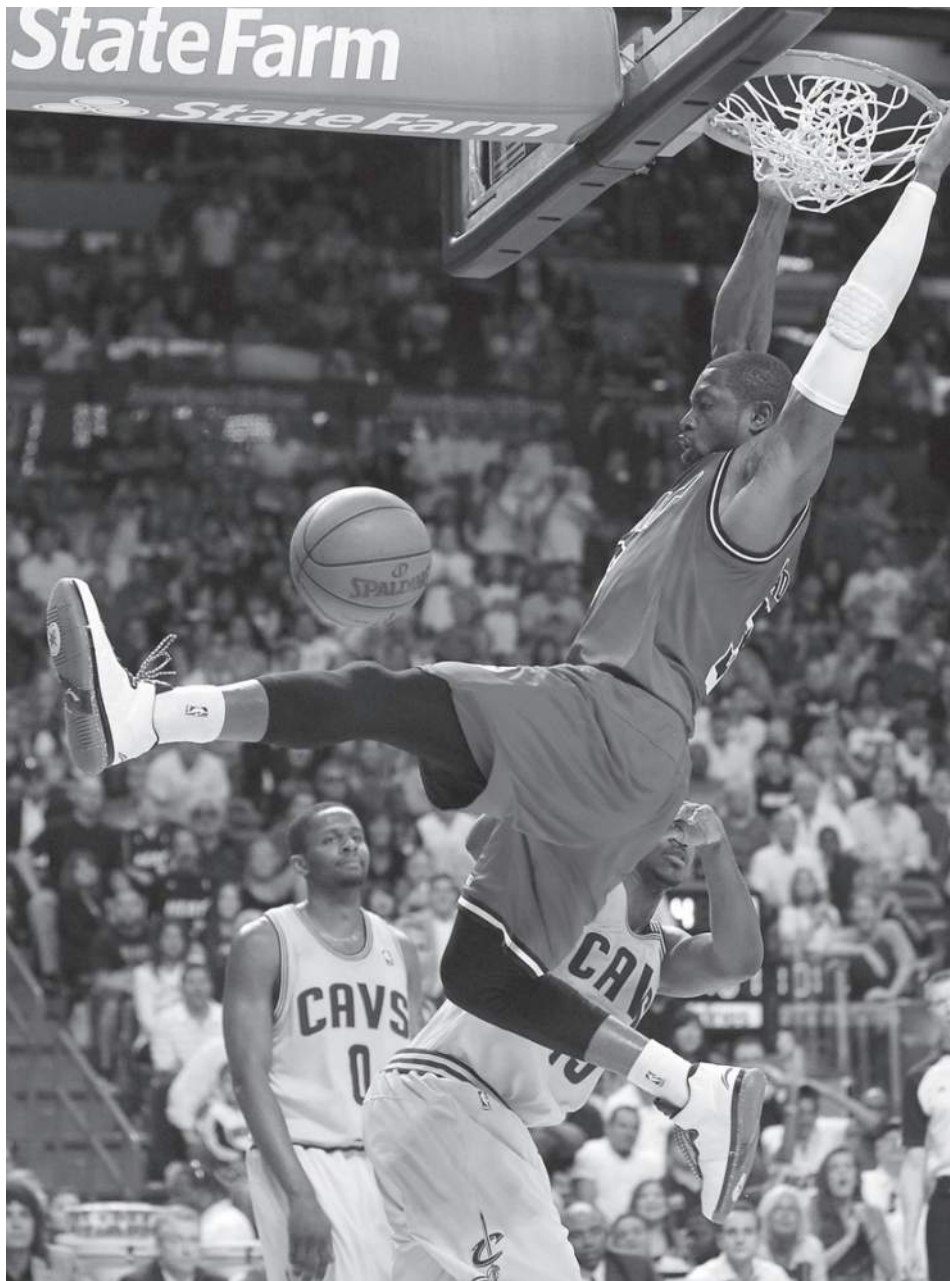
Nate Robinson and Luol Deng had 13 points apiece to lead the Bulls.

Lakers 103, Mavericks 99

In Dallas, Kobe Bryant had 38 points to win a scoring duel with Dirk Nowitzki, and Los Angeles beat Dallas in a matchup of teams fighting to get in the playoff race.

Bryant scored 14 in the fourth, including seven in the last 3 minutes to hold off a Dallas rally.

Nowitzki finished with 30 points and



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade dunks against Cleveland Cavaliers' C.J. Miles (0) and Tristan Thompson, rear right, during the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, in Miami.

13 rebounds for the Mavericks, who had a chance to pull virtually even with the Lakers for ninth place in the Western Conference. Houston is in eighth place, with a cushion of several games.

Former Mav Steve Nash had 13 of his 20 points in the second half in a game neither team led by more than six points.

Grizzlies 76, Nets 72

In New York, Zach Randolph had 16 points and 14 rebounds, Marc Gasol scored 14 points and Memphis won its seventh straight game with a victory over Brooklyn.

Tony Allen added 12 points, including two free throws with 19.5 seconds left for a 74-72 lead.

Deron Williams, who led Brooklyn with 24 points, turned the ball over as he attempted to pass it to Mirza Teletovic. Williams then fouled Mike Conley, who sealed it with a pair of free throws.

Tayshaun Prince had 11 points to help the Grizzlies improve to 8-0 this season when holding opponents below 80 points.

C.J. Watson had 11 points and Andray Blatche added 10 for the Nets.

Trail Blazers 92, Celtics 86

In Portland, Ore., Wesley Matthews had 24 points, including a clutch 3-pointer with less than a minute to go, and Portland snapped a seven-game losing streak with a win over Boston.

J.J. Hickson's hook shot put the Blazers ahead 86-80, but a pair of reverse layups from Paul Pierce and Brandon Bass pulled the Celtics to 86-84 with 2:54 left.

Kevin Garnett's layup with 1:46 to go tied it, but rookie Damian Lillard answered with his own layup and added a free throw to give Portland back the lead. Matthews then hit the

step-back 3-pointer that gave the Blazers the final margin with 53.9 seconds left.

Pierce had 23 points and eight assists for Boston, playing its third game in four nights.

Warriors 100, Timberwolves 99

In Minneapolis, Jarrett Jack had 23 points and eight assists, and David Lee had 22 points and 13 rebounds to rally Golden State to a victory over Minnesota.

The Warriors trailed by 16 in the first quarter before Jack came off the bench to jumpstart the offense—as he has all season. Fellow reserve Carl Landry added 19 points and nine rebounds for Golden State, which has won three in a row following a six-game losing streak.

Derrick Williams had 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Wolves, who had a chance to win in the final seconds, but Luke Ridnour's dash down the court ended with a floater that was off the mark.

Ricky Rubio had 16 points, 11 assists, eight rebounds and six steals for Minnesota.

Hornets, Kings 95

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 20 points and eight rebounds, and Eric Gordon added 17 points and eight assists to lead New Orleans to a victory over Sacramento.

Ryan Anderson scored 17 points, Roger Mason had 13, and Robin Lopez and Greivis Vasquez 12 apiece for New Orleans, which won its first game since an 0-3 start following the All-Star break. The Hornets also improved to 18-12 when holding opponents below 100 points.

John Salmons scored all 18 of his points in the second half for the Kings. Jason Thompson, DeMarcus Cousins and Isaiah Thomas each added 16 as Sacramento lost its fifth consecutive overall and eight straight on the road.

Pistorius' brother facing charge in traffic death

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The murder case involving Olympic star Oscar Pistorius took another unexpected turn Sunday with the news that his older brother, Carl, is himself facing charges for the death of a woman in a traffic accident.

Carl Pistorius faces a charge of unlawful, negligent killing for a 2008 road death, "in which a woman motorcyclist sadly lost her life," Kenneth Oldwage, the Pistorius family lawyer said on Sunday. The accident happened in Vanderbijlpark, south of Johannesburg. The charge of "culpable homicide" was dropped and then reinstated and will be challenged in court, the lawyer told The Associated Press.

It is the second time someone associated with the Pistorius case has been found to face a serious charge that has been dropped and then reinstated. It was revealed that the chief police investigator in the case is facing charges of seven counts of attempted murder for shooting at a vehicle with seven passengers. Following the revelations, Hilton Botha was removed from the Pistorius investigation and a new chief detective was appointed on Thursday.

To drop and then reinstate charges is "not uncommon in South African criminal law. The law specifically makes provision to allow charges to be dropped and then to be reinstated as a result of further investigations," said Jacob van Garderen, director of Lawyers for Human Rights. "It is a practical procedure, a process that is there to assist both sides."

In another twist this weekend, model Reeva Steenkamp, who was shot to death by Oscar Pistorius on Valentine's Day was on television again in a new episode of the reality show "Tropika Island of Treasure 5" even though she was buried last Tuesday.

On Monday, Oscar Pistorius must report to the police station in Brooklyn, a suburb of the nation's capital Pretoria, and sign in, a twice-weekly procedure which is part of his bail conditions.

Pistorius was released on bail Friday and stayed at the home of his uncle Arnold in Waterkloof, an affluent suburb of Pretoria, where Oscar is now staying. His brother, Carl, came to visit the house Sunday.

The problem confronting his older brother Carl is the latest complication in a case that has transfixed South Af-

rica and much of the world. "It's also doubly sad because it's involved with Oscar and his brother and all the —so they have double sort of trouble," said Johannesburg resident Jim Plester.

Lawyer Oldwage said that "Carl deeply regrets the accident" and that a blood test showed he was not drunk at the time. He said the charges had initially been dropped, only to be reinstated later.

Oscar Pistorius was charged with premeditated murder, but the athlete says he killed his girlfriend accidentally, opening fire after mistaking her for an intruder in his home.

The character of Pistorius also continued to take center stage. For many, it mirrors his public appearances as an articulate, well-spoken advocate for Paralympic athletes facing hardship. Witness statements describing Pistorius as a down-to-earth guy were presented at the hearing.

Others have described him as a reckless risk taker who has been in trouble before, such as a boating accident in 2009 which put him into a hospital intensive care unit.

But in a report on Sunday, a South African man who said Steenkamp had stayed at his home since September, described Pistorius as moody and impatient. Cecil Myers, whose daughter was close friends with Steenkamp, said in an interview in the City Press newspaper, that Pistorius will have the killing of Steenkamp on his conscience. "I hope he gets a long sentence. Gets what he deserves," said Myers.

Pistorius appeared "very nice and charming to us when they started dating," said Myers. Myers said Pistorius initially used to come into the house but later just dropped Steenkamp off and picked her up when they began to date steadily, and he described the change as a lack of respect.

Myers recalled their first date and told the newspaper: "After that he wouldn't leave her alone. He kept pestering her, phoning and phoning and phoning her."

According to Myers, Steenkamp "told me he pushed her a bit into a corner. She felt caged in."

Myers said he told Pistorius "not to force himself on her. Back off." He said that after initially agreeing with him, it appeared that Pistorius soon took no heed.

Matt Kuchar wins Match Play Championship



MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—Even in the most stressful form of golf, Matt Kuchar and his easy smile made the Match Play Championship look like a week-end game with his buddies.

It was fun when he built a 4-up lead at the turn. And when Hunter Mahan threw his best golf at him during a wild back nine Sunday at Dove Mountain, Kuchar never looked rattled, never felt as if the match belonged to anyone but him, and never lost the lead.

Kuchar kept momentum on his side with four birdies on the back nine, the last conceded on the 17th hole for a 2-and-1 victory. He captured his first World Golf Championship and put his name in the conversation as among the most lethal players in match play.

In his case, looks are deceiving. “Match play I find to be such an amazing, unique format, so much fun to play and so much pressure,” Kuchar said. “It seems like each hole there’s so much momentum riding and so much pressure on every hole. To come out on top after six matches of playing the top 64 guys in the world, it’s an incredible feeling.”

Mahan, trying to join Tiger Woods as the only back-to-back winners of the Match Play Championship, had gone 169 holes without trailing dating to the opening round last year until Kuchar won the fourth hole of the championship with a par.

Mahan never caught up, though it wasn’t from a lack of effort. Every time he cut into the deficit, Kuchar answered the challenge—a 15-foot birdie putt on the 12th hole with Mahan in tight, and a 10-foot birdie putt on the 15th with Mahan poised to cut the lead to one hole.

And he did it all with that warm smile on a day so frigid they traded golf hats for ski caps.

“He does it differently,” said Mahan, who had to get past the ultra-intense Ian Poulter in the semifinals earlier Sunday. “He’s



Matt Kuchar kisses the Walter Hagen Cup after defeating Hunter Mahan 2 and 1 in the final round of play during the Match Play Championship golf tournament, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, in Marana, Ariz.

more like a fuzzier, Peter Jacobson kind of guy who likes to talk. He’s super competitive, there’s no doubt about it. He plays golf to win, and he works hard at it. I think he really enjoys playing. When you play against him, you know what you’re going to get. You’re going to get a competitive guy who’s probably not going to make mistakes.”

This time, it was Mahan who made the mistakes. He allowed Kuchar to win consecutive holes with pars, and Mahan fell further behind when Kuchar hit pitching wedge to 3 feet for birdie on the par-3 sixth and Mahan hit a poor second shot that kept him from matching birdies with Kuchar on the par-5 eighth.

But even 4 down at the turn, there was never a dull moment on the back nine.

For all the great shots in a 25 mph wind that felt harsh with the cool, desert air, the match ended with a thud.

Kuchar was 1 up on the 17th hole when both drove into the bunker. Their golf balls were only a few feet apart, but Mahan’s had sunk slightly in the sand, making it difficult for him to get a clean hit. He came up woefully short, the ball rambling through the desert until it landed in a bush. It took him four shots to reach the green, and with Kuchar only about 4 feet away, Mahan conceded the birdie and the match.

“Just had a bad stretch against Matt on the front nine there that put me just a little bit too far behind,” Mahan said.

Kuchar became the second player in the last three years to

win the Match Play Championship without ever playing the 18th hole.

Mahan nearly forced him to the final tee.

He made a long two-putt par to win the 10th, and played a tough chip from the mound of a bunker to about 6 feet for a birdie on the next hole, cutting the lead in half. Mahan followed with a tee shot into about 10 feet on the par-3 12th, the momentum squarely on his side. Kuchar, however, followed with an 8-iron to just inside 15 feet and made the birdie putt.

“The shot was certainly good, but the putt was really crucial, and when that went in, I felt like I was still in control of the match,” Kuchar said. “Had that putt not gone in, it would have been only a 1-up lead, and I

think the match was in anybody’s hands at that point.”

On the par-5 13th, Mahan hit a poor approach from the fairway and Kuchar got up-and-down to restore his lead to 3 up.

Kuchar came up with one more clutch shot. With a 2-up lead on the 304-yard 15th hole, the breeze at his back, Kuchar chipped about 10 feet past the hole with Mahan only 6 feet away for birdie. Kuchar holed the putt and escaped with a halve.

Mahan won the 16th with a two-putt par when Kuchar’s tee shot bounced off the corporate tents behind the green, and it looked as though the match would go down the 18th for the first time in nine matches for Kuchar. Both hit into the fairway bunker on 17, but Mahan’s ball was slightly sunk in

the sand, and his approach never came close to reaching the green. Instead, it rolled through a patch of desert until it lodged in a bush.

Kuchar’s record in this event improved to 15-3, the highest winning percentage of anyone who has played at least 10 matches. He has reached the quarterfinals each of the last three years, and this time went all the way.

In the semifinals Sunday morning, when the wind chill hit a low of 37 degrees with the wind, Kuchar had no trouble against Jason Day in a 4-and-3 win.

Mahan hit a series of remarkable wedge shots in beating Poulter, 4 and 3, in his semifinal. He twice hit difficult chips inside 5 feet to win holes, and then seized control with a chip-in from about 70 feet on the 12th hole to take command.

Day defeated Poulter in the consolation match, 1 up.

It was the first all-American final in five years at the Match Play Championship, and Kuchar’s win gave the Americans a clean sweep of the PGA Tour’s West Coast Swing for the second straight year.

He moves to No. 8 in the world and picked up \$1.5 million, and now has earned just over \$3.2 million from his last two wins.

Kuchar and Woods are the only former U.S. Amateur champions to win the Match Play Championship. Kuchar won the Amateur in 1997, the year after Woods turned pro. He recalls being in the semifinals with three Walker Cup players and feeling out of his league.

That wasn’t the case this year, even against Mahan. Collectively, they have a 27-4 record at this event the last three years.

“The difference today I think is just all that experience now,” Kuchar said. “I step up to a first tee and I feel confident and I feel like I belong out here. Back in ’97, I was so new to it, I wasn’t sure I belonged. I loved being out there, but it was ... I was way more nervous than I am today.”



TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Curtis Granderson

jogged to first base after being hit on his right forearm as if it was a minor annoyance. Back at the ballpark in a brace a couple of hours later, it was clear the New York Yankees had a pretty big power problem on their hands.

In his first at-bat of spring training, the slugger broke his arm when he hit by a pitch from Toronto’s J.A. Happ in the bottom of the first inning Sunday, and is expected to be out until the first week of May.

“Grandy is not a bat you say is easy to replace, but we’re going to have to find a way,” Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Yankees’ Granderson breaks arm, out 10 weeks

“No one is going to feel sorry for you.”

The Yankees, who were beat 2-0 by a Blue Jays’ split squad, first called it a bruise but X-rays revealed the break.

“Five pitches in we got a little setback,” Granderson said. “Now we rest, recovery, get it back, and get ready to play whenever that day comes.”

The team said Granderson could be out 10 weeks, which means he’ll miss about a month of the regular season.

“Mentally, you understand this is part of it, but at the same time now there’s not much I can do about it except do the best things I can to not make it

worse,” Granderson said. “Keep myself ready to go.”

It’s a major blow for the Yankees, who are already without Alex Rodriguez until at least the All-Star break. The Yankees also lost Nick Swisher to free agency.

Granderson led New York with 43 homers last season. The Yankees hit 245 homers last year and had five players with at least 20. This year they could open the season with just two players, Mark Teixeira and Robinson Cano, who topped 20.

Granderson was examined near first base before leaving the game.

“It didn’t sound good,” said

Yankees third baseman Kevin Youkilis, who was in the on-deck circle when Granderson got hit.

The Yankees were planning to experiment during exhibition games to see if they would move Granderson from center to left, with Brett Gardner going from left to center. That potential alignment is on hold.

Girardi said that Gardner will likely start the season in center.

Matt Diaz and Juan Rivera, in the competition for the fourth outfielder spot, could see increased playing time.

“We’ll be forced to take a look at a short-term option,” Yankees general manager Bri-

an Cashman said. “Obviously, we’ll be getting Curtis back. It’s very early. We’re still evaluating what we actually have in camp. The first month there will be a vacancy that we need to fill. Is that internal, external, I couldn’t even tell you.”

Cashman said he is not in favor of giving infielder Eduardo Nunez a look in left field.

Happ, coming back from foot surgery, went two scoreless innings, giving up three hits.

“The first inning, I was rushing a little bit, and not quite getting the extension I needed,” Happ said. “Going out for that second inning I felt much better. I was taking my body toward

home instead of first there.”

Happ reached out to Granderson before the outfielder left the stadium for X-rays.

“Definitely not throwing on purpose, he’s trying to work on coming inside,” Granderson said. “It’s a part of the game. Sometime you get hit. You just hope you get hit in a better spot.”

Projected as the team’s sixth starter, Happ had a 10-11 record with a 4.79 ERA in 24 starts and four relief appearances last season.

Yankees starter Adam Warren threw two hitless innings. The right-hander hit Brett Lawrie with a pitch in the second, which he said got away from him.

“Tried to go in with a fast-ball,” Warren said.

Saipan Marathon draws Japan media coverage

The 8th Saipan Marathon this coming Saturday, March 2, is attracting international media attention with at least two Japanese media outlets seeking the assistance of the Marianas Visitors Authority to acquire filming and photography permits for the event.

Production company Boom-UP will be making a 30-minute feature for BS NTV station featuring celebrity supporter and Japanese comedian Kanpei Hazama. The program will also feature golf, fishing, gourmet dining, and other visitor experiences available in Saipan and is expected to bring \$475,000 in advertising exposure for the Northern Marianas. BS NTV has approximately 1 million viewers.

Tarzan magazine returns again this year to cover the marathon, sending a writer, photographer, and editor. The exercise and lifestyle magazine has a circulation of over 100,000 and targets office workers in their



Members of the Japanese media, bottom right, take photos and video footage of the runners heading out to the course during the 2012 Saipan Marathon.

30s. The two-page feature is slated to run in the magazine's April 2013 issue and will bring

about \$35,000 in advertising exposure.

"The Saipan Marathon is the

largest, annual sporting event in the Northern Marianas and provides an exciting backdrop for

media to talk about what our islands have to offer all visitors," said MVA Marketing manager

Bruce Bateman. "BS NTV and Tarzan magazine are just the tip of the promotional iceberg. The MVA anticipates to be assisting more media before the event date, and other media will be covering the event independently."

A total of 702 individuals have registered to run either the full marathon of 26.2 miles (42.195 kilometers), half marathon of 13.1 miles (20.96 kilometers), 10K run of 6.2 miles, or ultra-50K of 31.06 miles.

Drivers are asked to exercise caution on Saturday along the course, which covers much the island's west side from Banzai Cliff south to Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The start will take place at the American Memorial Park at 4:30am for the 50K and the Marathon, at 5:45am for the half marathon, and at 6am for the 10K. Drivers are reminded to yield to runners on the road and to obey traffic instructions by the Department of Public Safety officers. Dog owners are reminded to ensure their dogs are leashed on race morning. (MVA)

BLUE

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Ayuyus' roster are captains Joe Miller and Trey Dunn, Jehn Joyner, Jireh Yobech, Timothy Tawanpiy, Sean Perez, Ruselle and Raphael Zapanta, Jake Tiger Lee, Steve McKagan, Peter Loken, Dan Westphal, Lucas Knecht, Bo Barry, Yuki Adachi, Nick Swaim, Dae Won Jeon, Chris Nelson, and fellow goalie Evan Hunsberger.

Head coach Luam Khen Koo, assistant coaches Chi Ming Tang and Ho Man Chen, and physiotherapist Pamela Carhill are with the team and will be joined by head of delegation and Northern Marianas Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, team manager Norman Del Rosario, and team of-

ficial Wesley Bogdan late this week in time for the March 2 opening of the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers.

After their arrival in Nepal early Monday morning, the Blue Ayuyus were scheduled to start their training session yesterday afternoon. There are three training sites in Nepal—the ANFA Complex, ANFA Technical Centre, and the National Police Academy—while games will be played at the Dashrath Stadium.

The CNMI strikers will face Nepal in its debut game on March 2 at 5:30pm and will have their second match against Palestine on March 4 at 2:30pm. The Blue Ayuyus will then close out its Group D game versus Bangladesh on March 6, also at 2:30pm. Winners of the Group

D bracket and four other pools and the two second best-placed teams in the qualifiers will receive slots to the 2014 AFC Challenge Cup, which will be held from March 8 to 23, 2014 in Maldives.

It will be the CNMI's first time to compete in a men's tournament in the AFC and although coach Koo admitted that his players will be facing a tough task in Nepal, he assured the Commonwealth supporters that the Blue Ayuyus will go all out in every game.

"Definitely, we will give every opponent a strong competition. We've been preparing hard for this tournament and this is the time to show what we've been working on for the past several months. There's no turning back," said Koo in an interview with Saipan Tri-

bune last Thursday during the send-off dinner for the team at Kanoa Resort.

Tan was also present at the send-off ceremony and said that regardless of the results of the CNMI's games in the qualifier, he believes that AFC will appreciate the CNMI/NMIFA's effort on forming a formidable team to compete in a high-level tournament. "We are the 'baby' in AFC, but with our men's team competing in the AFC Challenge Cup qualifier, we are able to prove we our capable of building and preparing a team to compete in the AFC. Our participation in Nepal shows our commitment to AFC and its program. The tournament in Nepal is only one of the many AFC tournaments we will be competing in," Tan said.

VETERANS

From Page 28

After regulation, the Veterans were ahead, 46-30, but could not take the outright win and the championship, as Rocball rules state that the leading thing can only get the win if it also prevails in the fourth set.

With the Jumpers stealing the fourth set, the game went in o-kon (overtime) where the Veterans completely blew out the former, cruising to the 7-0 victory. Lizama led the Jumpers in overtime, scoring an ace and never losing a serve. She and Gechig combined for 20 points off four aces, one xunk, and five kees and shared the heavy hitter honors.

Lizama was also the heavy hitter in the Veterans' Game 2 win, 55-33. She logged 14 points after delivering seven aces. Lizama and company swept all four sets in Game 2 for a juiced-out win and a victory away from clinching the short

series. The Veterans topped the closely fought first set, 15-12, before routing the Jumpers in the second, 13-3. The finalists had tough battles in the last two sets with the Veterans still prevailing, 13-9, 14-9, to complete the Game 2 sweep.

The Veterans also shut out the Jumpers in the series opener. The first two sets in Game 1 were tight with the Veterans escaping with the 12-9, 13-8 wins. The last two sets were cruise control for the Veterans, 14-6, 12-3. Gechig went on to get the heavy hitter award with his 16 points off two aces and six kees.

The Veterans advanced to the finals after sweeping the Teachers in a best-of-three semis series, while the Jumpers ousted Smack Dat in the other Final Four pairing in similar fashion.

Five other squads joined this season's Rocball league. The list includes Roc It, Give-A-Hoot, Aim Low, Just-Do-It, and Alpha Q.

MAMIKO

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for the 50K. Saipan Marathon is my favorite race because I have many friends running with me, volunteering, and cheering for me," said Oshima-Berger, who thanked her

husband Joshua and running buddies Suzy Kindel, Paul Viator, Tonya and David Banes, Tiffany Lin, Nicky Nichols, and Yumiko and Tamio Nishikido for helping her prepare for the weekend race.

Meanwhile, besides Oshima-Berger, former Olympian Eric Wainaina Wahinya of Kenya is

also competing in the ultra marathon this weekend.

Wahinya, who is now based in Japan, ruled last year's 50K after clocking in at 3:32:19. The Kenyan Olympian, who joined the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia, will be participating

in the Saipan Marathon for the third straight year, as he was a guest runner in the half marathon in 2011.

Over 700 runners are expected to compete in the weekend event with the full marathon drawing 259 entries, the half marathon getting 194, and the 10K race luring 200.

SAIPAN TV

From Page 28

and Tim Wesley also contributing on offense. Four of the five Saipan TV starters went on to score in double digits with Talanía leading the way with his 21 markers. Fital added 16, while Aquino and Alipio chipped in 12 and 10, respectively.

Aaron Wood and Joy Dayrit nailed 16 points apiece for Cellular Pro, which played with only five players. Kevin Deleon contributed 14, while

Montano had 9.

The win improved Saipan TV's record to 3-3, while Cellular Pro fell to a 1-3 slate.

In the curtain raiser, the trio of Justin Zapanta, Paul Quizon, and Jerome Norita delivered the goods for Chinatown (4-3).

Zapanta scored a team-high 22 points, Quizon contributed 20, and Norita logged 17 to offset the 34-point explosion of Servitek's Mican Bintz.

Quizon dropped 6 of Chinatown's last 8 points in the first period for their 18-12 cushion. The lead ballooned to twin digits at

the break, 38-27, as Zapanta and Norita made their presence felt in the second quarter, teaming up for 15 of the team's 20 markers.

Servitek still faced a manageable deficit at halftime, as Bintz single-handedly carried his team, firing 16 first half points.

Bintz continued to pile up points in the second half, but failed to get help from his teammates, while Chinatown's potent trio joined forces in lifting its team to the 23-point win.

First Game
Chinatown 79 – Zapanta 22,

Quizon 20, Norita 17, Avila 8, William 4, Kimo 2, Alokoa 2, Pua 2.

Servitek 63 – Bintz 34, Sebuu 9, Detera 8, Salazar 7, Webb 3, Capuyon 3, Villasan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 38-27, 60-44, 79-63.

Second Game
Saipan TV 76 – Talanía 21, Fital 16, Aquino 14, Alipio 12, Wesley 7, Culala 4, Anasan 4.
Cellular Pro 53 – Dayrit 16, Wood 16, Deleon 14, Montano 9.
Scoring by quarters: 22-9, 39-29, 60-44, 76-53.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
NBA STANDINGS									
EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
New York	33	20	.623	—	San Antonio	45	13	.776	—
Brooklyn	33	24	.579	2	Memphis	37	18	.673	6 1/2
Boston	29	27	.518	5 1/2	Houston	31	27	.534	14
Toronto	23	33	.411	11 1/2	Dallas	25	30	.455	18 1/2
Philadelphia	22	32	.407	11 1/2	New Orleans	20	37	.351	24 1/2
Southeast Division					Northwest Division				
Miami	40	14	.741	—	Oklahoma City	41	15	.732	—
Atlanta	31	23	.574	9	Denver	35	22	.614	6 1/2
Washington	17	37	.315	23	Utah	31	25	.554	10
Orlando	15	41	.268	26	Portland	26	30	.464	15
Charlotte	13	43	.232	28	Minnesota	20	33	.377	19 1/2
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Indiana	35	21	.625	—	L.A. Clippers	40	18	.690	—
Chicago	32	24	.571	3	Golden State	33	23	.589	6
Milwaukee	26	28	.481	8	L.A. Lakers	28	29	.491	11 1/2
Detroit	22	36	.379	14	Sacramento	19	38	.333	20 1/2
Cleveland	18	38	.321	17	Phoenix	18	39	.316	21 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI Men's National Team Sendoff Dinner

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



From left, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, CNMI Team goalkeeper Johan Noetzel, captain Joe Miller, coach Luam Khen Koo, and captain Trey Dunn pose with the CNMI flag during the send-off dinner last week at Kanoa Resort.



Members of the CNMI National Team acknowledge the officials being introduced during the squad presentation.



Above, a group of players and officials listens to Luam Khen Koo's message.



Above right, CNMI players and officials listen to Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider's message.



Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider leads the "hip, hip, hooray" chant for the CNMI Men's National Team.



NMIFA president Jerry Tan delivers the opening remarks.



NMIFA technical director and CNMI goalkeeper Johann Noetzel introduces his teammates.



NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka introduces officials and representatives of various football clubs in the CNMI.



Coach Luam Khen Koo delivers a brief speech to the crowd.



Heat blow huge lead then beat Cavs for 11th in row

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Matt Kuchar wins Match Play Championship

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Blue Ayuyus get warm welcome in Nepal

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Team arrived in Nepal early yesterday morning and received a warm welcome from the host nation.

The 20-player squad and its five officials touched down at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu past 10pm last Sunday (around 3am Monday Saipan time) and were welcomed by All Nepal Football Association official Ramesh Rayamajhi. The first batch of the CNMI delegates was presented with marigold flower necklace as part of Nepal's traditional welcome



ceremony for visitors. Former Saipan residents Manju and Subu Pandey also greeted the visiting squad at the airport.

"We are happy to come to Kathmandu and play in the AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers," goalie Johann Noetzel was quoted as saying in the Nepal football association's website.

Joining Noetzel on the Blue See BLUE on Page 26



Members of the CNMI Men's National Team and its officials pose for a group photo as they arrived at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, early yesterday morning and received a warm welcome from All Nepal Football Association official Ramesh Rayamajhi, standing right.

Mamiko takes on 50K challenge



Mamiko Oshima-Berger, left, gets a hi-five from husband Joshua Berger after winning the women's title in the 2012 Saipan Marathon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Three-time champion Mamiko Oshima-Berger is taking on a new challenge in this weekend's 2013 Saipan Marathon.

Mamiko Oshima-Berger, who won the 42.195-kilometer marathon race of the annual event in 2008 and 2009 and 2012, will be competing in the ultra marathon or the 50K run this year.

"I have always wanted to break my personal best time at Saipan Marathon, but since I didn't have a good training that

will help me break my personal record this season, I decided to try on a new distance. Joshua has been pushing me the past few years to try the longer ultra marathon, so this is a good opportunity to try one, at home,

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Saipan Marathon draws Japan media coverage

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with my friends and supporters," Oshima-Berger said.

The veteran runner finished last year's marathon in three hours, nine minutes, and 49 seconds to crush the 2010 record in the women's division (3:10:03/ Mayu Mochizuki of

Japan). Oshima-Berger's time last year also eclipsed her PBT (3:16:14) posted in 2010. She won the 2008 and 2009 editions of the race with times of 3:51:58 and 3:22:45, respectively, and logged 3:16:28 in her runner-up finish in 2011.

The 42-year-old runner will be among the 49 participants in this weekend's 50K race and he is aiming to complete the longest event of the day in five hours.

"As a 50K participant, I would be so happy if I am done in four hours 30 minutes, but in reality, I would finish in five hours some. I am in good shape

See MAMIKO on Page 26

Veterans sweep Jumpers in Rocball finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Veterans wrapped up the 2012-2013 Rocball Fall League early after sweeping the Jumpers in a best-of-three title series at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last week.

The champion squad is composed of Chenny Lizama, John Nekaifes, J.R. Gechig, and Wilton Laniyo and secured the championship after slipping past the Jumpers in overtime in Game 3, 53-30.

The Veterans, which won the first three sets of Game 3, 13-4,



The Veterans, left, and the Jumpers face off at the center court before Game 3 of their title series in the Rocball league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last week. Officiating the match is Rocball creator Jim Feger, center.

12-2, and 13-11, had to play extended minutes in the deciding Game 3 after the Jumpers got

a new lease of life, following a 13-8 triumph in the fourth set.

See VETERANS on Page 26

Saipan TV, Chinatown rout opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan TV and Chinatown coasted to victories in their respective games in the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In Division B game, Chinatown whipped Ser-vitek, 79-63, while Saipan TV crushed Cellular Pro in the Division A tiff, 76-53.

The depleted crew of Cellular Pro kept up with Saipan TV only in the opening minutes of the first period before dwindling down in the last seven minutes, allowing the latter to take a 22-9 lead.

Bernard Aquino led Saipan TV's opening salvo, making 9 points in the first period, while Brendon Talania chipped in 6. Cellular Pro, on the other hand, kicked off the game with a triple from Bernard Montano, but was held to three field goals in the remaining minutes of the first frame to face a double-digit deficit after 10 minutes of play.

Saipan TV then increased the lead further in the last three quarters with Kelvin Fitial, Jun Alipio,

See SAIPAN TV on Page 26



Saipan TV's Bernard Aquino pulls up for a shot against two Cellular Pro defenders during their Division A game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.